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2 tourists saved after diving accident

AQABA (Petra) — A Royal Medical Services (RMS) team on Friday managed to save the lives of two tourists involved in two separate accidents while diving in the Aqaba gulf. RMS Director Major-General Yousef Al Qusous sent a medical team from Al ein Medical Centre to operate on the two tourists who had air Hisself recursar centre to operate on the two tourists who had air clots in the brain and the spinal marrow at the Princess Haya hospital in the city of Aqaba. The identity of the two tourists was not immediately known. One of them, an Austrian, suffered paralyse of the lower limbs as a result of a clot in the spinal marrow. The other, identified only as a female of the transfer and lower limbs as a result of our transfer of the transfer and lower limbs as a result of our transfer of the transfer and lower limbs as a result of our transfer of the transfer and lower limbs as a result of our transfer of the transfer was paralysed in the upper and lower limbs as a result of clots in the brain and the spinal marrow. The hospital said the two have fully recovered after the operations and were discharged from the hospital, which has specialised equipment and team to treat injuries sustained by divers. The team, which conducted the operation, was led by Brigadier Samir Zureigat, and included from both the Al Hussein Medical Centre and the



Volume 19 Number 5899

AMMAN SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1995, THU ALQ'EDAH 22, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Spanish king, queen meet Prince **Abdullah**

MADRID (Petra) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sorlia of Spain on Thursday ed Their Royal High-Prince Abdullah and Ress Rania who are currently visiting Spain. The king and queen of Spain horted in Madrid a dinner in honour of Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania. Prince Abdullah on Friday was received by the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Spanish army and the two issues of common

Kabariti, Sharaa discuss relations

NEW YORK (Petra) Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Thursday met in New York with his Synan counterpart Farouk Al Sharaa on the sidelines of a conference on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) held at the United Nations. Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Sharaa discussed Jordanian-Syrian relations, the two countries' stand on renewing the NPT and issues listed on the agenda of the Non-Aligned Movement conference which will be held in Indonesia April 25.

Icher was too book India test-fires . Akash missile

Mande Meads rate NEW DELHI (R) - India from the position a dec successfully test-fired its nameter of an calve of surface to air medium-range missile Akash on Friday from hour returns that it test range in the eastern state of Orissa, the Press time in the lastern Frast of India (PH) said. This was the seventh test fire of the locally developed missile, the news agency said quoting a Defence Ministry spokesman "The flight trial was fully successful and met for the trial," the spokesman

Japanese split over role in Golan

TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese cabinet ministers remained sharply divided Friday over whether the country will send its troops to take part in U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said he would make a final decision by the end of May after a meeting failed to produce a compromise. "I want to make a decision after consulting officials," Mr. Murayama said. During the meeting, Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said "we have to take a positive stance" toward sending troops, according to officials who attended.

Israelis fire Lebanese Israelis fire at

Cather of the life. TYRE (AFP) — Israeli navy the control work but fishermen to abandon their - 11 marcaha ka in the second second nets and return to port after Friday, port officials here San Charles Hall He me 10 fishing boats with heavy machine-gun fire although BASSE WEEK kilometres from shore, the N. Zealand police Feb. 8, they said. men by the Israeli navy since

islamists protest at Saudi embassy

WOULD Some 400 persons representing the Islamic fundamentalist group Hezb Al Tahrir demonstrated in front Water the trated in front of the Saudi uated in front of the Saudi embassy here Friday against they called ruling traitors" in the Manager "Traitors" in the Muslim World. They chanted "down with ... " Pakistani Prime ruling family of Saudi Arabia and Iranian Precident and Iranian President Ali mid called for "the return of slamic law." The Saudi mbassy issued a statement all mossy issued a statement all mossy issued a statement most illegitimate and most illegitimate and has resorted to violence in has all most illegitimate.

Oklahoma blast toll rises; theories abound

Investigations focus on terrorism from within U.S.; 2 suspects sought

OKLAHOMA — The death toll in the Oklahoma carbombing rose Friday to 57 as the manhunt for the killers behind the worst such attack on U.S. soil focused on ter-

rorism originating inside the United States. President Bill Clinton declared Sunday a national day of mourning for victims of the attack and said he was "wellsatisfied" with progress in the

investigation. Rescue workers meanwhile continued a grim search for survivors in the wrecked remnants of the nine-storey federal government building sheared in half Wednesday by a powerful fuel-andfertiliser packed in a truck left on the street.

Hopes plunged Friday when the governor of Oklahoma, Frank Keating, announced on several national television programmes that searchers discovered 50 more bodies overnight, which would double the number of known dead.

But Mr. Keating later retracted the announcement, with aides saying he had mis-understood a briefing he was given earlier on rescue efforts. Officials put the con-firmed death toll — based on bodies already in the morgue

– at 57. Officials on the scene said that number would go higher as rescuers gained access to portions of the building not yet searched, including an area housing a day care centre for children. They said 150 were still unaccounted

Among the dead were 12 other people were wounded in the attack, officials said. In brief remarks outside the White House, Mr. Clinton appealed to the country to avoid hasty conclusions on who was behind the attack, and he specifically reassured



Families of victims of Wednesday's carbombing in Oklahoma City attend a memorial service on Thursday (AFP photo)

freed after questioning

WASHINGTON (Agencies) A Palestinian-American who was flown back to the United States from London for more questioning about the Oklahoma City bomb blast has been released, the Justice Department said Fri-

"He is free to go. He cooperated. There is no reason for him to be held," Justice Department spokesman John Russell said of the man identified by the Jordanian government as Ibrahim Abdullah Hassan Ahmad. Mr. Russell said investiga-

tors may want to talk again to Mr. Ahmad, a U.S. citizen (Continued on page 7) from Oklahoma initially de-

Mr. Ahmad initially was (Continued on page 7)

tion to the blast.

ment as a "possible witness"

to the blast. But he said

investigators had no reason

to believe there was any dan-

ger Mr. Ahmad would flee

the country.

Mr. Russell was unable to

say if Mr. Ahmad had any

knowledge about the deadly

truck bombing of the govern-

ment office building. It was

not clear if U.S. authorities

made a mistake in believing

he might have some connec-

Federal Bureau of Inves-

tigations (FBI) officials said

Palestinian 'suspect' is Suspect held; Michigan Militia house raided

OKLAHOMA CITY (Agencies) - Authorities on Friday arrested one of the two men sought in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, law enforcement sources

The man was arrested in Perry, a town of 5,000 about 100 kilometres north of Oklahoma City. A law enforcement official in Washington identified him as Timothy McVeigh. Cable News Network said McVeigh was arrested the night of

the hombing on a speeding charge.

In Petoskey, Michigan, federal agents raided a house in connection with the carbombing, officials said.

members of a paramilitary group known as the Michigan Militia opposed to the federal government, local television n for the militia denied the group was

involved in the Oklahoma attack, but they did not rule out participation by a "splinter" group. "We are outraged by this" attack, said Lee Miracle, ting commander of the Michigan Militia.

(Continued on page 7)

King, world leaders condemn bombing

might have at that particular moment. I can't go beyond that."

There was no immediate comment from the Saudi embassy here.

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a message of sympathy to U.S. President Bill Clinton and condemned the truck bombing in Oklahoma City, the Jordan News Agency,

Petra, said. "It is with deep anger, shock and revulsion that we learnt of the heinous crime committed in Oklahoma City against humanity," the King told Mr. Clinton.

"The government and peoole of Jordan share with me in our sense of outrage over this crime as we condemn terrorism and all criminals who support, abate and perpetuate these ugly and

cowardly acts." "Please accept our deepest sympathies and condolences and to the American people, the victims and their families," King Hussein said.

In Vatican City, Pope John Paul condemned the carbombing in Oklahoma as a "deplorable act of violence" and expressed his solidarity with victims and their fami-

"His Holiness Pope John Paul II has been deeply saddened by the deplorable act of violence which has caused so many deaths and injuries in Oklahoma City," the Vatican said in a statement addressed to the archbishop

of Oklahoma. "He prays to Almighty God for the victims and invokes divine strength and comfort on the injured and on the families affected by this unspeakable crime," the statement said.

German President Roman Herzog condemned the carbomb attack as a "cowardly. act of terrorism" in a telegram to President Clinton. This cowardly and brutal act is an attack on the state the life of citizens in freedom and safety," Mr. Herzog

"We share this goal with our American friends and we remain beside them in these difficult hours," he added. Russian Foreign Minister

Andrei Kozyrev condemned the carbomb blast as "a barbaric act of terrorism." in a message to his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher. "We have sometimes ex-

perienced attempts at destabilisation through terror, assassinations and provocations," said Mr. Kozyrev, quoted by Interfax news

Mr. Kozyrev said "resolute measures" were needed to combat "the threat posed now by extremism and organised international crime which is acquiring a global

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said he deplored the bomb attack.

"Naturally we are against such acts," he told a news conference in the Georgian capital Tbilisi at the end of a visit to the former Soviet

"The negative attitude of the United States towards Iran does not give us a basis for being indifferent to such

Mr. Rafsanjani, replying to question from an Iranian journalist, made no further mention of Wednesday's

Lebanon's most influential Shiite Muslim cleric condemned the deadly bombine but warned the United States might use the attack as a reason to strike Iran or other Muslim states.

(Continued on page 6)

Draft accord on widening self-rule ready — Erakat

JERICHO (Agencies) - Inching towards a final agreement, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have outlined on paper the autonomy accord that is supposed to be completed by July 1, a top Palestinian

negotiator said Friday. What we have here is the skeleton of what is meant by the interim agreement," said negotiator Saeb Erakat, holding up the draft paper during an interview at his office in this PLO-ruled West Bank town. He said the two sides have agreed on the chapter headings for the pact. The July 1 target date is

realistic, despite delays and growing mutual suspicions, Dr. Erakat said. "I think it's doable," he said. But he warned that if the deadline passes without

something to show for it, it will spell the end of Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. Under the initial September 1993 autonomy accord, Israeli troops were to pull out

of West Bank towns by July

1994, on the eve of Palestinian general elections. But Israel balked when militants launched a shooting and bombing campaign that has killed more than 120 Israelis, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he could not pull out his troops unless

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat did a better job foiling attacks on Israelis. For the past few weeks separate negotiations have been held on the two key

issues: troop redeployment and elections. The redeployment talks have been held in secret loca-

tions, apparently to ease

Israeli officials have confirmed that generals from both sides have met in Tel

Dr. Erakat, the chief Palestinian negotiator in the elections talk, refused to comment on the withdrawal negotiations, but said progress has been made on elections for a self-rule council.

He said a key sticking point was the participation of 160,000 Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem. Israel has said it is willing to let Jerusalem residents vote, but is resisting PLO demands that they also be permitted to run for office and that polling stations be set up in the dis-puted city, he said.

Israel is trying to block the Palestinians' campaign to establish East Jerusalem as their future capital.

Dr. Erakat said that despite the continued disputes, the two sides have agreed on the outlines of a final accord on self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Holding up the draft, Dr. Erakat said the treaty would have chapters on redeployment, security, elections, transfer of authority, legal affairs, economic agreements, the structure and powers of the autonomy council and the council's relations with Israel.

Palestinian police agents raided the print works of an opposition newspaper overnight in a bid to halt publication, the weekly's owner said Friday. Twenty preventive security

men went to the East Jerusalem plant of Al Umma

Islamists condemn blast, warn against stereotyping By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian Islamists Friday condemned the Oklahoma carbomb attack but warned against building stereotype image of Muslims as terrorists.

Commenting on Wednes-day's blast that killed and injured around 300 people, a spokesman for the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party strongly voiced condemna-tion but warned against attempts to stereotype Arabs and Muslims as terrorists.

"Before the truth even came out, the fingers of accusation were pointed at persons with Middle Eastern looks," said Mohammad Owaida, a member of the IAF parliamentary group. Dr. Owaida, who represents the Baqaa camp constituancy in the Balga district, said the IAF was unlikely to issue a formal condemnation of the attack since the largest Islamic party could not be considered as directly concerned or accused of committing such an act.

While he strongly criticised the U.S. policies vis-a-vis the Middle East, Dr. Owaida said his party and the Islamists generally do not have anything against the American people themselves and would not engage in such acts. He cast doubts, however, over "Israelis and Zionists," and said they might be involved in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

"I would not be surprised if there were some Israeli fingers in this incident," Dr. Owaida said, "It is an American Jewish conspiracy aimed at stereotyping Arabs and Muslims as terrorists... it is part of a campaign launched by (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin."

Asaad Bayoudh Tamimi, head of the Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdes, refused to condemn the blast even though he said it was against the Islamic belief to kill innocent people.

"We'do not condemn and we don't interfere in these matters," Mr. Tamimi said. "We don't know anything about it... all what we say is that Islam prohibits the killings of

In a statement issued in the occupied territories, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, condemned the blast and stressed its objection to such acts that led to the death of children and civilians.

The statement stressed that Hamas' military operations are only aimed at "resisting the Zionist occupation which is the sole enemy of the Palestinian people.

"The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, stresses it has no animosity towards the American people or anayone else. It seeks to establish constructive relations with all peoples all over the world," the statement

"We denounce the incident," said Sayyed Abu Mesameh, a prominent member of Hamas in self-ruled

"Hamas has no function whatsoever outside the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, and there is no enmity between us and the American people," he said. A spokesman for Islamic Jihad also condemned the Oklahoma blast and both groups rejected any accusa-

tions of Islamic involvement. "Jihad confirms that the Islamic movement has absolutely no connection to the incident, and rejects the distorted Jewish accusations against Muslims," the

Jordanian unit in Croatia faces major reduction AMMAN (J.T.) — The com-

mander of the Jordanian contingent serving with the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Croatia has said he expects a major reduction of the Jordanian troops there to take place following the adoption by the U.N. Security Council of a resolution this month calling for the reduction.

Major General Eid Kamel Radwan told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Jordanian force constitutes the second largest contingent in former Yugoslavia after the French contingent. Since the U.N. decision is to reduce the force by 40 per cent, a major reduction of the nearly 3.000 Jordanian troops would

take place, he said. "We do not know the exact date for starting the reduc-tion but we believe it could be the start of May," Maj. Gen. Radwan said.

Jordan said in January it would withdraw its peacekeeping troops from

Croatia as soon as the mandate of the U.N. forces deployed there ends.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman had called to end the mandate of the troops by March 31. Jordan then said it would coordinate its forces withdrawal with the United Nations Security Council. Maj. Gen. Radwan said a

Jordanian batallion that should have been replaced on April 13 remained in the embattled regions of Yugoslavia until the end of this month because of the expected reduction of forces and until the situation had Until the reduction or the

pullout of the peacekeepers takes place, Jordanian troops would continue to carry out their duties as normal, he The U.N. peacekeepers -

14 batallions - have been operating in former Yugosla-

(Continued on page 7)

Egyptair ferries 1,000 pilgrims from Libya

JEDDAH (Agencies) — The Egyptian national carrier Egyptair has airlifted 1,000 Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Ara-bia from Tripoli and Benghazi in the first 24 hours of the operation, Egyptair officials said on Friday.

The airlift began on Thursday afternoon after the Libya Sanctions Committee of the United Nations gave Egyp-tair clearance to move 6,000 Libyan pilgrims to 45 flights to and from the Saudi city of leddah, entry point for the Holy City of Mecca.

One unauthorised Libyan plane also made the trip, landing in Jeddah on Wednesday evening with 150 pilgrims on board.

Egyptair said it had run four flights to Jeddah by early afternoon on Friday but, at the request of the Libyans, would suspend flights on Saturday and Sunday, resuming on Monday. It gave no

Company officials said it would take 21 flights to take all the Libyans to Jeddah, where they would all arrive by May 3. The pilgrims will fly back after the pilgrimage ceremonies, which reach a climax around May 9.

The United Nations imposed the flight ban and other sanctions in April 1992 because Libya refused to hand over two Libyans wanted by the United States and Britain in connection with the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

The official Libyan news agency JANA said an Egyptair plane which went to Libya on Thursday was the first Arab and non-Libyan plane to land in the country since the United Nations banned flights three years ago: Libvan leader Muammar

U.N. air embargo by flying pilgrims to Mecca, without putting other Arab countries on the spot. The Libyan leader, speaking to crowds in the western

Qadhafi said his country

acted alone to break the

city of Ghadames, also vowed to turn his act of defiance into an annual event. Col. Qadhafi said he sent a plane to Saudi Arabia "without seeking to embarrass any Arab country by asking for

space. The plane with 159 pilgrims on board crossed through Egyptian air space before landing in Jeddah Wednesday night.

the right to enter its air

Libyans "decided to act alone by taking the plane from Tripoli to Jeddah, forcing the world to concede to them the sacred right to go to

(Continued on page 7)

Egypt spurns NPT extention without Israel signing it

- Egypt on Thursday re-ected a U.S. proposal for xtending the nuclear Nonroliferation Treaty (NPT), emanding "in the name of eace" that Israel first sign he pact and abolish its nucar weapons.

"Is it logical," asked gypt's foreign minister, umr Musa, "....for states in ne region to agree to support ne indefinite extension of ne treaty when a state within ne region is benefiting from n 'exemption'?"

Mr. Musa, speaking on the ourth day of a global confernce to renew the 25-year-old eaty, raised the possibility f suspending the month-long eeting without deciding on eaty extension - in order : build pressure on Israel. But there seemed little apport for that idea. Egypt bes not even have full backg from Arab states in its I-or-nothing campaign.

The United States propes an unlimited, uncontional extension of the trea-, which recognises five nucar powers and requires all her signatories to give up e possibility of nuclear ms. In exchange, the five wers are pledged to work
n good faith" towards total iclear disarmament.

The pact took effect in 70 for only a 25-year aranteed term, and the 178 ember nations must now cide to extend it indefiniteor for a limited period or riods. Although only a aiority vote is needed, all matories would remain and by the pact. Some in the Third World

vour limited extensions nose periodic renewals ould hinge on the nuclear wers' reaching stated goals arms control.

Trying to bridge that U.S.hird World gap, South rica has proposed estabning committees that der a permanently exided treaty — would con-ually review progress tords disarmament. But the aty's life would not depend meeting goals.

Clinton administration īcials, who estimate a jority of states now favour efinite extension, are moting the South African a as a way to broaden

This might be a way to e the heat out of the de-

JNITED NATIONS (AP) bate," said David Fischer, a non-proliferation expert with the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

Mr. Musa spared little heat as he assailed Israel's longstanding refusal to sign the NPT treaty.

It "confronts us with an extremely dangerous situation," the Egyptian official

It is generally accepted that Israel has scores of nuclear weapons, although the Israelis neither confirm nor deny it. They say they will consider signing the treaty, or agreeing to a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East, two years after they win peace agreements with all countries in the re-

Mr. Musa said "persistent ambiguities" about Israel's nuclear programme may 'lead to proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region and could well carry the seeds of a regional arms race."

He noted that Syria on Wednesday suggested suspending the conference without an extension decision. Syria and Egypt believe holding treaty renewal in abeyance might prompt the United States and other powers to pressure Israel into

"In the name of peace. Egypt calls upon Israel to reconsider its position," Mr. Musa declared.

An Israeli diplomat, with observer status at the treaty conference, sat through the Mr. Musa speech. An official Israeli source, saying "we want to be as nonconfrontational as possible, later described the address only as "disappointing."

It may also be disappointing to some in Washington. where members of Congress had urged the Clinton administration to use U.S. aid to Egypt as a lever for winning Cairo's support.

At this point, apparently only some new gesture from Israel could win Egyptian backing for indefinite exten-

As for other Third Worlders, the United States will work in the next two weeks to find language for the conference's final document to reassure them that the nuclear powers are committed to further reductions and controls on nuclear arms.

'amily wants executed ousemaid buried in UAE

)LOMBO (AFP) - The her. v of a Sri Lankan maid. o was executed in the Un-1 Arab Emirates (UAE) a ek ago for murder, will not flown home because her aily wants her buried in the LE. officials said Friday.

ithy Unisa Farook was cuted by firing squad in north emirate of Ras Al aimah after she was found lty of stabbing to death the r-year daughter of her em-

'Her father had earlier nted the body brought ne. But family members want her buried in the LE as soon as possible ause she is a Muslim," d Tissa Wijeratne, the eign Ministry's consular urs director.

The parents of the maid I told the Foreign Ministry y would like to obtain a y of the judgement made the Islamic court that pasthe death sentence on

Ms. Wijeratne said both the requests made by the maid's family have been conveyed to the Sri Lankan embassy in the UAE.

Sri Lankan Labour Minister Mahinda Rajapakse blamed lack of communication for the government's inability to intervene in the case. The murder was committed on Oct. 17 and sentenced passed on Jan. 17.

Following a tour of the Middle East last month, Mr. Rajapakse promised to tighten controls on females seeking employment in the region. About 75 per cent of some 500,000 Sri Lankans employed in the Middle East are females.

denied their wages, subjected employers.

Mr. Rajapakse also confirmed reports that several Sri Lankan maids had been to abuse, sexual assualt and harassment by their Arab

"Berber Spring" revolt and to demand the official recogni-tion of the Berber language, Tamazight. Tens of thousands of people took part in the March (AFP photo) 'BERBEE SPRING': People flash the victory sign in Tizi Ouzou, the main city of the Kabylia region, east of Algiers, during a rally marking the 15th anniversary of the 1980 GB man spied for years Israeli documents say K TEL AVIV (AP) — Lifting a appeal of his sentence. It was den confessed to being a spy seven-year veil of secrecy, not clear why the ruling was and offered to work for Israel Israel has revealed that a made public on Thursday. in order to "atone" for his Russian emigre who worked three years after it was handdeeds, the transcript said.

ed down. Large sections of the six-page transcript were deleted for security reasons. Lunden, 65, left the Soviet Union in 1973, part of the first wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants to the state of Israel. Before leaving, he had

been recruited to work for

the KGB, according to the court transcript. Israel Radio said Lunden was trained as an engineer and had been a pilot. In Israel, he worked in a factory that developed army tanks. Lunden spied on Israel for

15 years until his arrest by Israeli security services in 1988, according to the court. He continued spying even after learning at one point that he was being watched by Israeli security agents, it said. Following his arrest, 'Lunbeen caused."

otherwise his family remaining in the Soviet Union would be harmed." But the court that sentenced Lunden in 1989 noted that even after his arrest, he tried to get information to his handlers warning that he had

He "explained that he did

what he did for fear that

someone in Soviet intelli-In the appeal, Luden's attorneys argued there was no proof he was involved in further spying, and empha-

been double-crossed by

sised his age and poor health. But the supreme court decision, written by Justice Eliezer Goldberg, said the sentence was warranted considering "the potential danger if his actions had not been cut off, in addition to the

damage that had already

The section of the decision detailing the damage Lunden caused was deleted, except for a reference to him providing the Soviet Union information about Israeli intelligence agents.

The relevation sparked calls to end Israel's policy of concealing the existence of prisoners convicted of

spionage. "It is forbidden for a free country to keep behind bars people whose imprisonment is not publicly known," said Dedi Zucker, a liberal lawmaker. "A country must not hold prisoners anonymous-

Israel's Channel Two TV said Lunden would be eligible for early release in two years. The TV report also said Lunden's mother and sister had also immigrated to Israel since his arrest.

Lebanon's traffic **Motorists** risk necks

BEIRUT (AFP) - Lebanon's clogged roads are a motorists' hell as old jalopies weave among deluxe models, horns blaring, trying to find the fastest way out of the chaos further fuelled by the lack of traffic lights.

in an Israeli weapons factory

is serving a 13-year prison

sentence for spying for the former Soviet Union.

Gregory Kalman Lunden

was arrested in August 1988

and convicted and sentenced

in a secret trial, according to

a document released by the

It was the first time made

public any information about

Lunden, the latest in a series

of Russian immigrants con-

victed of spying. In recent

years, the government has

released information about at

least two other Soviet immig-

The document released

rants convicted the impris-

Wednesday was a partial transcript of a March 1992

ruling in which the supreme

court rejected Lunden's

supreme court.

oned for spying.

A million and a quarter cars jostle for space in the tiny country of 10,452 square kilometres.

The pitiful state of the

country's roads and cars following the 15-year civil war. the lack of road signs and traffic lights, and a large number of "mad drivers" has turned city roads into a night-

In Beirut few traffic lights have been installed but they still do not work because of electricity cuts so the horn

communication and warning.
According to official figures at least 328 people were killed in Lebanon in 1994, and close to 3,000 were injured. The figures are made more

horrifying by the fact that in some places 80 per cent of drivers have no insurance. according to the head of the Lebanese insurers' group, Joseph Zakhur. In the major cities of Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon about 50 per cent are driving uninsured.

Although car insurance is obligatory in Lebanon under a law dating from 1977, it has never been properly applied. "There are some cars that

are in such a bad state that companies refuse to insure them," one legal expert said. Authorities have now banned the import of cars more than eight years old.

But insurers also complain that existing cars are not subjected to rigorous tests to check their road-worthiness. One car industry expert

said a "financial" backhander is all it takes to get a current road disc without having the obligatory road test. Michel Murr, deputy prime minister and interior minis-

ter, recently denounced such a racket and pledged that "measures will be taken to end the existing muddle."

One reason put forward by insurance companies to AFP for successive governments hesitation to sort out the situation since the end of the war in 1990 is the fear of burdening the population with yet another costly

The monthly salary in Lebanon is around \$150, only a little more than the cost of a year's third party car insurance. The population has already been hit by electricity cuts, increasing poverty, rising taxes and a surge in the cost of living.

But one insurer said the price of insurance "is nothing compared with the terrifying human costs of accidents.

"Most drivers are not solvent, think of all those who are handicapped and incapacitated without any compensation.

The problem is even recognised by the state under a law providing financial support for those injured by uninsured drivers or for victims of "hit-and-run" accidents.

New discovery sheds light on ancient kingdom

DUBAI (AFP) - The disthe good life. These artefacts represent covery of 20 ancient clay tablets in Bahrain will finally shed light on the mysterious Dilmum kingdom which flourished in the Gulf 5,000 years ago. A team of French

archaeologists discovered the perfectly-preserved tablets at the historic seaside site of Qalaat Al Bahrain, five kilometres north of the capital Manama.

The tablets are the first to be found in such good condition bearing inscriptions in Akkadian, the most commonly used language in the Middle East in the second millenium B.C.

Archaeologists hope they will give an insight into Dilmun, now the site of modernday Bahrain, which was renowned as the mythological kingdom of immortality and an exceptional discovery for

our knowledge of the Dilmun civilisation in the second millenium, and its political and economic ties with the neighbouring kingdoms of the time including Mesopotamia,' said Pierre Lombard, the head of the French team. Photographs of the inscriptions have been sent to Paris

to be deciphered by sepcialists in the Semitic language of Akkad in ancient Babylonia. Until now archaeologists had only found skeletons, statues and scattered objects of everyday life such as arrows and jars from the Dil-

mun period. Most of the tablets were found on the huge stone threshold of an administrative building from the ancient kingdom.
The Dilmun civilisation sprung up in modern-day Bahrain but also spread to the east coast of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and was at its peak between 2000 and 1700

Dilmun is described as "a sacred country where the crow does not caw, the lion does not kill and the wolf does not capture the lamb," in an inscription on an Assyrian-Babylonian mytho- should shed new light on the logical mosaic dating from civilisation of the Diluthe third millenium.

Religion played a large role in the ancient society and temples have been discovered. One of the tablets lists products such as dates which were given as offerings to the

Thanks to its geographical position historians know that

Dilmun was the hub of the Gulf region. All trade between the kingdoms of Mesopotamia in modern-day Iraq and the Indus valley in the Indian sub-continent had to pass through Dilmun.

Artefacts from the period have been discovered in Iraq. demonstrating links between the Dilmuns, and the Sumer civilisation of the period. "The latest discoveries

mums," Mr. Lombard said. Oalaat Al Bahrain, named

after a Portuguese fortress built in the 16th century, is the richest historic site in the Arabian peninsula. The Gulf archipelago of

Bahrain, one of the smallest states, is the largest prehistoric cemetery in the world with 300,000 burial sites.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 killed as Sudanese planes bomb south villages

NAIROBI (AFP) - Three people, including two children were killed when Sudanese air force bombed villages in the Lopit Hills of Eastern Equatoria province, the rebel South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) claimed Friday. Fifty houses were destroyed during the raid on Thursday. It was the third attack on Lopit Hills by government war planes in 10 days and the 15th violation by the Sudanese government of a ceasefire brokered last month by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, SSIM's spokesman here Daniel Mathews said. On Wednesday SSIM said the government bombarded the village Loronyo killing five people. Since the ceasefire came into effect on March 28, Khartoum have accused the rebels of violating the trace and threatened to resume fighting again. The rebels blamed the government for the fighting. Mr. Carter on Monday expressed concern at the reported violation and called upon all parties to "exercise restraint and to observe the ceasefire commitments."

Turkey calls NATO council on Kurdish meeting

BRUSSELS (AP) - Turkey called a special meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) council Thursday to protest the setting up of a Kurdish parliament-in-exile in the Netherlands, officials said. Turkey is angry the Dutch government authorised the meeting in the Hague which included representatives from organisations linked to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been waging a decade-long fight against Turkish rule. Officials at NATO headquarters said the Turkey called ambassadors from the 16 allied nations back from their traditional Easter recess to object to the Kurdish meeting being held on allied territory. Diplomats at both the Dutch and Turkish delegations to NATO declined to comment on the content of the ambassadors' meeting. The protest to NATO is the latest development in a diplomatic quarrel that has already led to Turkey calling home its ambassador to the Netherlands. Turkey has faced criticism from several other NATO nations since it sent 35,000 troops into northern Iraq last month to wipe out PKK bases.

French sculptor begins 'Hope for Peace' statue

BEIRUT (AP) — Renowned French sculptor Arman Fernandez has started work on a "Hope For Peace" statue made out of old weapons which he hopes will help obliterate the horrors of Lebanon's civil war. Mr. Arman said he will gather old artillery guns and other weapons used in the 1975-1990 conflict to build the 20-metre-high statue at the entrance of the Defence Ministry. "We'll pile up all the machinery of war in a monument for peace that will help us forget all about war," he told reporters outside the ministry in suburban Yarze, eight kilometres east of Beirut. "It will be my gift to Lebanon, a monument of war tools built to underscore the determination never to let it happen again," he said. The work will be inaugurated Aug. 1, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Lebanese army. Mr. Fernandez is internationally famous for his "Long Term Parking" in Paris and the Cavalleria Eroica in

Canada returns stolen artifacts to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has recovered 400 stolen artifacts seized in Canada last October, antiquities chief Abdul Halim Nureddin said. The pieces, dating back to the pharaonic and Greco-Roman periods, were "seized by Canadian authorities from an antiquities smuggler named Simon Simonian," Mr. Nureddin said, without giving the nationality of the smuggler. "The antiquities were transported from Egypt to Europe years ago," before being taken to Canada, the head of the Supreme Council for Antiquities added. A montreal court decided in January to estore the pieces to Egypt, he said. The 400 artifa include statues, masks, coins, mummies and parts of a sarcophagus. A major ring smuggling Egyptian antiquities was busted in London earlier this year.

Turkey to reopen air corridor to Armenia

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has decided to reopen an air corridor to neighbouring Armenia which it closed in 1993, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Thursday. Civil aviation delegations from the two countries met in Ankara on Thursday for talks on the reopening, it said. Ankara closed the corridor which allows flights to Armenia over Turkish territory in protest at an Armenian military drive which seized about 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territory. Azerbaijan, which has close ethnic and cultural links to Turkey, had asked Ankara to reopen the corridor. Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a conflict over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for the last seven years but a ceasefire between the two former Soviet republics has held for the last 10 months.

OAU to send missions to Somalia, Burundi

TUNIS (AFP) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) is to send missions to Somalia and Burundi to press for an end to violence and "encourage reconciliation" between warring factions, an OAU spokesman said. Ibrahim Daggach said the decision was taken by foreign ministers from the 11-nation organisation. The Somalia delegation, due to meet faction leaders there as soon as possible, includes Ethiopian President Melez Zenawi, who has already visited Somalia and called for a multi-faction conference to set up a "broad-based interim authority." On Burundi, ministers looked at ways of avoiding that country sliding into a bloody conflict on the scale of Rwanda last year, when between 500,000 and one million people lost their lives in tribal violence. Both countries have the same ethnic make-up,

JORDAN TELEVISION

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Harry and Hendersons Witness to Survival Gillete World Sport

The Bold and the Beautiful
Life in the Freezer The Nanny ... Dive the World Cape Rebel News in English cature film: "Across The Red

News in French

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. De la Saille Church Tel, 661757 Terrasaucta Claurch Tel: 622366 Church of the Amendation Tel.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Catholic Church Tel. Arments 771331. Armenian, Orthodox Church Tcl. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tcl. 771751. Amman International Church Tcl. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Tel. 811295

WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds north-westerly moderate. In Agaba. winds will be northerly moderate

Min./Max. temp. Amman	7 / 21	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 13 / 27 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19. Aqaba 25 Humidity readings; Amman 34 per cent, Agaba 32 per cent.

Aqaba 14 / 27 Deserts 5/ 23

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN: Dr. Bassam Karadsheh 759200 Dr. Salman Al Doboubi 778959 Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362
Dr. Ahmad Khamis 747684 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 778336 AI Ascma pharmacy 637055 Naireukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy
IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773

Alquds pharmacy (—)

Dr. Farah Al Agrabouri 987725

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417 **EMERGENCIES** Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Vater and Sewerage 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230 Central Amman Telephone fordan Television 773111

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Electric Power

HOSPITALS

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital . University Hospital . 845845 Al-Mussher Hospital ... The Islamic, Abdali Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26 Amal Hospital, 674155 ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 IRBID: . (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital fon Al Nafees Hospital AQABA: (02)272275

Princess Haya Hospital .

Hussein Medical Conne Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

11:15 16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ 17:50 Cairo (RI) 19:30 London, Berlin (RI)

.. (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-**ARRIVALS** Roya! Jordanian (RJ)

INTERNATIONAL

AJRPORT

Flights (Terminal 1) 06:45 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ) 10:15 Aqaba (RJ) 10:46 New Delhi (RJ) Aqaba (add) (RJ) ... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

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..... Rome (AZ) London, Berlin (BA) Paris (AF 22:20 23:00 . 23:20 . .. Cairo (MS) **DEPARTURES** Royal Jordanian (RJ) **Flights**

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........ Paris J Brussels (RJ)

.... London (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) Beirut (ME) .. Dubai (EK

23:59
HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Cucumbers (large) ... Cucumbers (small) . Granc Leaves 900 / 800 240 / 140 Green beans 650 / 500 ... 80 / 60 Lemon Marrow (large) Marrow (small) 220 / 100 300 / 250 170/ 100 540/400 Qnion (dry) .. 450Y 350 450 / 300 400 / 250 Pepper (sweet) Potato String Beans

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Crown Prince hails outcome of ATF plenary session in Qatar

Arab thinkers ought to direct efforts towards youth, says Prince Hassan

the value officer on March 28 the renew again, the mach again, the mach again, the release to the state of the st AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman Thursday evening the representative value of after chairing a two-day plenary session of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) which groups some 200 intellectuals, thinkers and decision-makers from throughout the Arab

IN BRIEF

planes bomb south villages

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MARKET PRICES

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Held after a four-year break caused by the Gulf crisis, the ATF's meeting was significant as it sought to restore understanding among the Arabs, Prince Hassan said in a television interview immediately upon arrival at Marka Air-

Reflecting on the atmosphere at the ATF conference, Prince Hassan said that the delegates tackled several important issues in complete frankness, rationality and clarity, adding that the aim of the discussions was to arrive at an approach that would enhance future inter-Arab dialognes and build mutual confidence among the Arab states in social, cultural and economic fields.

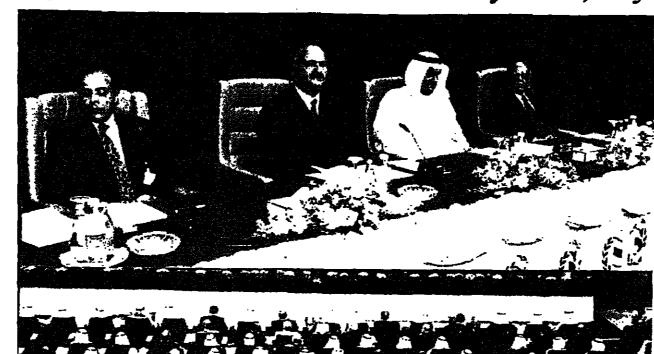
Despite the many frustrations felt in the Arab World, the ATF sought to emphasise the need for inter-Arab cooperation and creating new hopes, said

the Crown Prince, noting that the Arab delegations were unanimous on this important point.

The ATF meeting, he said, also directed its attention to humanitarian aspects, expressing hope that the coming decade will be characterised by construction and sustainable development.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that the ATF would direct its attention in the future to issues facing the Arab youth, trying to address them in a scientific

Asked about his meeting with the Kuwaiti delegation to the ATF meeting, Prince Hassan said: "I believe the meeting was characterised by frankness, and I can say that we have reached a certain stage of maturity in handling humanitarian issues. I cannot say that we arrived at full agreement over the topics we discussed, but we are oriented towards holding a special ATF session to discuss the 'Gulf earthquake' and the 'Gulf crisis,'" said the Crown Prince who expressed hope that the delegations in the coming session would focus on moves to ensure further pan-Arab



(Top) His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan chairs the plenary session of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in Doha last Wednesday. To the Crown Prince's left are Qatari Sheikh Hammad Ben Khalifa

"At the ATF we presented our views concerning the ordeal of the Iraqi people as well as concepts for raising the standard of living of the Arab masses

everywhere," noted Prince Hassan in his statement to Jordan Television and the

Jordan News Agency, Pet-With reference to Jordanian-Qatari relations,

Al Thani and Yemeni Ambassador to Washington and former prime minister Muhsen Al Ayney, and to his right ATF Secretary General Al Omleil. (Right)

Prince Hassan said he had held talks with Qatari leaders on development plans, noting that the Qatari officials displayed great interest at the public and the private levels in participat-

ing in the coming Middle East and North African summit which is to be held in Amman later this year. Upon his departure from Doha. Crown Prince Has-

san sent a cable to Oatar's

Crown Prince Hassan is met by Oatari Sheikh Khalifa

Ben Hammad Al Thani. (Below) Participants attend the ATF plenary session (Photos by Boghos)

Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani thanking him for hosting the ATF meeting and the hospitality accorded to the Jordanian and Arab de-

Crown Prince and a number of senior officials saw Crown Prince Hassan off at the airport following the conclusion of the 2-day

PSD chief recovering from surgery

cooperation and integra-

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Police Chief Lieutenant Abdul Rahman Udwan was listed in good condition after undergoing an operation in the United States, informed sources

According to the source, Lt.-Gen. Udwan, head of the Public Security Department (PSD), Wednesday underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumour from a lung at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minne-

The operation was very successful and the police chief is in excellent condition," the source told the Jordan Times Friday.

His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Lt. Gen. Udwan congratulating him on the success of the operation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

King Hussein also telephoned officials at the PSD and reassured them of the good health of their chief and congratulated the PSD on the success of the operation. The King also called the family of Lt. Gen. Udwan and congratulated

Sources were not certain when the police chief would return to Jordan. Lt. Gen. Udwan appointed on April 4, 1993 as head of the PSD by King



Abdul Rahman Udwan

Officials, businessmen from Jordan, Israel and U.S. to attend seminar in Amman on Rift Valley projects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior officials and businessmen from Jordan, Israel and the United States meet in Amman for three days starting on Monday to give shape to development projects in the Jordan Rift Valley estimated to cost \$4 billion to \$5 billion ahead of the Middle East and North Africa summit to be held in Amman in October.

Sponsored by the U.S. Trade and Development sium will focus on projects in telecommunications, aviation, environment, energy, oil shale development, hydropower generation, transportation, desalination and other water-supply issues, a statement issued by the United States Information Service (USIS) said.

"The symposium represents an important phase of international cooperation and regional consensusbuilding on the design of the Jordan Rift Valley projects and will contribute to the upcoming Amman economic summit in October." the

statement said. Senior officials from the TDA, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Federal Aviation Administration as well as top-levelexecutives of dozens of American firms are expected to take part in the sympo-

Israel will be represented at the meeting by government advisors and economic experts as well as senior executives for the Ports and Railways Authority, the Bezek Telecommunications Company and other private The symposium, part of a series of workshops to be held in the run-up to the summit in October, is expected to bring Jordanian, Israeli and American views closer on realising the development of the Jordan Rift' Valley, a key component in

the peace process.

The general principle of the development of the valley, shared by Jordan and Israel, is that the two countries will share in providing the infrastructure to support share the output of the proposed projects there.

The proposals for the projects were drawn up in early 1994 after Jordan, Israel and the United States formed a trilateral economic working group following a meeting between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Washington in

American businessmen are known to take a key interest in some of the projects after it was clear by all the three governments that the private sector will be given a major share.

The governments of Jor-dan and Israel are expected to assume only regulatory role in the process. At a meeting held two

weeks ago in Amman, American businessmen were re-"non-conventional" means to raise financing for the projects, and these ideas are expected to be further clarified during this week's symposium.

Among the American participants, according to a tentative list made available to the Jordan Times, are:

Raytheon International, Core International, Bechtel Corportation, Stone and Webster Corporation, the Dupont group, Montgomery Watson, K&M Engineering, MCI International, Science Applications International, Atkinson Construction, AT&T, Caher International, GTE, Harza Engineering, Camp, Dresser and McKee, Ecology and Development. FTR International, Morrison Knudsen and Salomon Brothers.

Also taking part in the . event will be senior officials from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency led by Director Joseph Grandmaison, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the United States Agency for International Development as well as American experts in development projects and

World nature conservation group to hold conference in Amman anced nations that have lic and private institutions in

AMMAN (Petra) — The In-ternational Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in cooperation with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), is organising a 180 W + T three-day international conference in Amman next month to discuss legislation on the environment in the ns to Somalia. Burund Western Asia region, according to RSCN board member

Mr. Shahin said that delegates from 13 states from the Arab World, Pakistan, Afghanistan as well as Jordan will discuss ways for cooperation among their countries to safeguard the safeguard the environment and how to benefit from adv-

adopted legislation to govern environmental matters.

The delegates will focus on techniques used in protecting the environment, following sound methods in utilising natural resources and avoiding practices that have led to the extinction of some natural elements, said Mr.

In the three-day meeting, added Mr. Shahin, the delegates will consider legislation designed to ensure sustainable development, combating pollution and protecting endangered species and wild-

the field of protecting nature and in spreading awareness among members of the public in this respect as well as in combating desertification will also be reviewed at the coming meeting, said Mr. Shahin.

Mr. Shahin said that international institutions such as the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have been invited to take part in the meeting which will convene on May 1, 1995.

Cooperation between pub-

Ministry, UNICEF to administer second dose of polio vaccine to children under age five Health health centres, this campaign resides in the been immunised against polio

second dose of national polio immunisation campaign is due to start today, covering all children under the age of five, a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) statement said.

The campaign, organised by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, is in accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UN-ICEF's goal to achieve global polio eradication by the year.

This purely preventative initiative aims to secure a

The polio vaccine will be offered at all Ministry of

mother and child centres and hospitals, as well as the Royal Medical Services, University of Jordan Hospital and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

·As for remote areas not accessible to these centres, they will be serviced by mobile ministry immunisation teams, said the statement.

medical services.

The vaccine, in the form of two oral drops, will be available free-of-charge to all chilmunisation status.

Insisting that the success of

cooperation of families, the concerned authorities are requesting families to bring their children forward for immunisation.

Polio is considered an infectious disease that affects the nervous sytem, and could lead to permanent paralysis, physical disfigurations, and in some cases death. The causative agent for this disease is a virus which is transmitted from one child to another, and may infect adults in rare

According to the State of the World Children, published by UNICEF recently, 95 per cent of all one-yearold Jordanian children have

during the period 1990-1991. which is one of the highest immunisation coverage rates in the world.

Noteworthy is that the first stage of this national campaign, that took place in March, recorded great suc-cess, as 99.3% of children were immunised, scoring one of the highest immunisation coverage rates attained through a national campaign: such campaigns being a vital strategy towards the eradication of polio, according to UNICEF.

Earlier this month Jordan celebrated World Health Day under the theme "A World Without Polio" on the occa-

sion of which Richard Jolly. then the acting executive director of UNICEF, stated in a press conference held in Amman, that despite Jordan's limited economic resources, the country has attained prominent advances

in the health field. Dr. Jolly attributed this headway to high public awareness and level of education, particularly among women.

He further expressed UN-ICEF's aspirations to make Jordan a model example for other countries in the region, especially that Jordan is expected to be polio-free within the coming few years, the

WHAT'S GOING ON dren residing in Jordan. irrespective of nationality, polio-free Jordan, the statemedical insurance or im-

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time Kxhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian and the Phonic College for and place with the concerned institutions.

CONCERT

MISE BAILWAY TRAIL Concert by Calliopeé band at Philadephia

FILM

★ Film entitled "Pink Floyd The Wall" at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 🗴 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m.

JEWELLERY DISPLAY

An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nature of Dhana (designed by Ammar Khammash in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature) at Darat Al Fumm.

POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by Izziddin Manasrah, Hilmi Salim, Ali Al Shalah, and Mohammad Sham Al Din at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITION

nian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

* Exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Sadeq at Alia Art Gallery. * Photography exhibition entitled 'Tuentes

de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre). ★ Exhibition of water colour and oil paintings by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at

Orfali Art Gallery. ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Osama at

the French Cultural Centre. Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Mahrul Din Adhim at Balqa Art Gallery,

A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinholt at the Gallery, off the

main lobby, Inter.Continental Hotel. ★ Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhahia at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul

Hameed Shoman Foundation. ★ Exhibiton of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Judi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. ham at Darat Al Funun. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

Students tackle environmental protection at U.S. embassy's Earth Week finale

By Cathy King Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Earth Week, celebrated at the U.S. embassy, Thursday ended with displays on the conservation of the environment undertaken during the past year by more than 20 schools.

"The target audience (of Earth Week) has been children, and they tackled the theme of environmental pro-tection ravenously," an embas-sy official told the Jordan Times.

Modern Educational Schools and Al Ahliah School had focused on recycling, showing pupils' designs made with aluminium cans and even a table made from silicon.

Amman National School concentrated on automobile

Among some of the displays,

emissions. Earlier in the week Asem Fakeer, representative of vered a paper on the harmful effects of vehicle emissions and explained the problems more specific to the Kingdom.

"There are no laws governing diesel and diesel-run engines and there is no enforcement of laws governing leaded Although unleaded gasoline has recently entered the mar-

ket, there are few cars capable of consuming it, he added. Leaded fuels contain gases harmful to living beings and the environment. These gases include carbon monoxide that inhibits the absorption of oxygen into the blood stream. arbon dioxide contributes to the green house effect; nitrogen dioxide as an unburnt fuel produces photochemical 'smog" and is damaging to the

eyes and bronchiols. Hydrocarbons, present in both gasoline and diesel emissions, also con-tribute to photochemical smog and the micro-climate (green house effect).
Sulphur dioxide exacerbates

once dissovied in water, creates acid rain, while particulates, comprised of soot impregnated with diesel contain carci-nogens, Mr. Fakeer explained. Lead, used to induce preignition resistance, which ensures that engines start with the

asthma and emphysema, and

first attempt, negatively affects the nervous system and is also damaging to the brain. Vehicles, Mr. Fakeer said, contribute to 20 per cent of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) produced. CFCs, when hit by ultraviolet light, release chlor-ine atoms that break down

ozone molecules. The growing holes in the ozone layer lead to skin cancer, global warming, drought and raised sea levels among other environmental and health The problems particular to

Jordan, Mr. Fakeer told the audience, include the large number of old and badly serviced cars. Vehicles with defective engines emit unburnt fuels that are particularly hazardous. To combat these problems,

Mr. Fakeer called for the imposition of stricter laws and stricter testing of engines; lower or negligible customs duties on vehicles and spare parts to increase the instance of new vehicle purchase and better running old ones; the introduc-tion of a new public transport system dependent on underground and overground rail

networks and also cable cars. He said that public awareness should be heightened and that people should be encouraged to opt for smaller cars

which produce less pollution. While he recognised the initial expense required in a bid to protect the environment, Mr. Fakeer concluded by saying: The money spent on pollution prevention does not compare with a breath of fresh air."

An embassy official, involved in the organisation of Earth Week, stated that the intention of the event was to bring together a wide group of environmentalists, to "demonstrate to themselves and to all the people of Jordan, that the problem (of the environment) is all of ours."

He added that the basic call that had been repeated throughoul the week, was that "we are at the knife's edge. Decisions and action must be-

"With one mighty voice." he asserted, "we can produce one mighty sound."

Giri sentenced

JACKSONVILLE, Florida

(AP) — A teenage girl who called former hospital pa-

tients and told them they had

tested positive for the AIDS

virus was sentenced to five

years' probation and therapy.

Tammy Iyan Esckilsen, 13,

pleaded guilty to taking con-

fidential information from a

computer and making baras-

sing telephone calls. All

charges will be dropped if

Eschilsen successfully com-

pletes probation, said Circuit

Judge A.C. Soud Jr. The girl's mother, Darlene Esckisen, an employee at University Medical Centre, told

the judge she took her daugh-

ter to work on Feb. 26 be-

cause she couldn't find any-

one to watch her. She said

she didn't want to leave the

girl alone because of her his-tory of drug use, truancy and

fight with her parents. Esck-

ilsen, after getting the tele-

phone numbers of former-

for fake AIDS calls

Troops kill 22 at Rwanda camp

KIGALI (Agencies) — Rwandan government troops killed 22 Hutus and wounded about 50 when they opened fire in a fithy overcrowded camp in southwestern Rwanda, aid agency officials said Friday.

They said troops fired into a crowd of displaced Hutus Thursday evening at Kibeho Camp after a man tried to wrestie a rifle from a soldier. Hours earlier, the government troops had fired into the air when displaced men threw stones at them.

The aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF-Doctors Without Borders) said 20 displaced people were killed and two later died of their wounds. An estimated 50 were wounded, aid work-

MSF spokeswoman Samantha Bolton said 40 wounded were being treated at the MSF hospital in Kibebo Friday mostly with bullet wounds. Aid workers said troops stopped doctors from evacuating the seriously wounded by air to Kigali for treatment.

Ten displaced Hutus were killed in a stampede at Kibeho, the largest camp for displaced people in the country,

BRATISLAVA (R) — Nine

people from three countries

have been arrested in Slova-

kia after police seized 17 kg

(37.4 pounds) of a radioac-

tive material believed to be

uranium, the Slovak Interior

Four Slovaks, three

Hungarians and two Ukrai-

nians were arrested Thursday

after police found the mate-

Ministry said Friday.

Tuesday when Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) troops cordoned it off and fired in the air.

The estimated 100,000 men, women and children of Rwanda's Hutu majority took refuge on a central hill in Kibeho ringed by troops in a government drive to close camps in the southwest.

Aid workers said an estimated 50,000, many of them believed to be hardline Hutus, were packed into a compound near a Zambian U.N. military base in Kibeho in dismal conditions and short of water.

The workers warned they feared epidemics would break out in the crowded conditions with no sanitation and a U.N. operation to truck the displaced home could take two weeks to com-

Officials estimate between 125,000 and 200,000 Hutus at four southwestern camps including Kibeho are packed into small areas facing sickness and dehydration since the closure operation began Tuesday.

The government says nine camps for the 250,000 displaced Hutu people in the southwest must be closed be-

passenger car stopped near

the town of Poprad in eastern

Slovakia, the Interior Minis-

Ondera, told Reuters.

try spokesman, Peter

The exact substance and its

level of possible enrichment

have yet to be determined

but test results on the mate-

rial are expected by Monday,

he said. "There are no doubts

this is nuclear material, and

9 held in Slovakia with suspected uranium

cause they harbour militia-men of the Hutu tribal majority a year after Rwanda's genocide in which up to a million people were killed.

Many displaced Hutus and two million Hutu refugees outside Rwanda fear they will be killed in revenge for the genocide by Hutu troops and militiamen of Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

In Geneva, the U.N. refugee agency deplored Friday the closing of Kibeho and other southwestern camps and said it would not forcibly transport their residents away

"like cattle."

But the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was providing trucks to bring those Rwandans who had agreed to return voluntarily to their vil-lages from Kibeho Camp. "We urge the Rwandan

government to allow these people to at least go back to their huts and retrieve their belongings and to ensure there is an orderly movement back to their home villages," said UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond.

Mr. Redmond said movement out of the camp must be voluntary.

"We cannot keep living

but we just don't know what kind," he said.

Mr. Ondera said the car,

with Hungarian licence plates

and carrying two Hungarian nationals, was followed by

police since it entered Slova-kia from the Ukrainian bor-

der and stopped at the foot of

definitely headed for Hun-

"We know that the car was

the Tatra Mountain range.

like this, like beasts with no sleep, water or food. I hope I can leave this hell soon but I fear to go home as I will be arrested. All of us will be arrested," said one man at Kibeho Thursday, out of sight of RPA troops.

MSF said up to 100 people were injured in N'Dago Camp south of Kibeho when they panicked on seeing troops approaching.

Several Hutus killed in Burundi Meanwhile two families

and a regional administrative head have been killed by youths armed with machetes and knives in northeastern Burundi, the Burundi News Agency (ABP) said Friday. The attack took place Thursday in the troubled town of Gasorwe in Muyinga province.

The victims, like their attackers, were from the Hutu majority and were accused by their assailants of not paying fees to the Hutu People's Liberation Party (PALIPEHUTU), the Hutu extremist movement to which the attackers belonged, ABP

The agency did not specify how many people were kil-

material was meant to be sold

Police also arrested four

members of a smuggling ring

at airports in the eastern

cities of Poprad and Kosice.

and three others at another

undisclosed point, Mr. Ondera said. All have been

charged with either illegal

possession of radioactive

material or complicity in pos-

session.

somewhere," he added.



Republican Guards stand at attention around the coffins of French scientists Pierre Curie and his Polish-born wife Marie Curie during the ceremony for the transfer of their remains to the Pantheon in Paris. In the background (AFP photo)

are, from left to right, French President François Mitterrand, Polish President Lech Walesa, French first lady Danielle Mitterrand and French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur

France pays tribute to Marie Curie

PARIS (R) - Scientist Marie Curie, who won two Nobel Prizes but never had the right to vote, became the first women to be buried alongside France's "great men" in the Paris Pantheon Thursday.

Outgoing Socialist President Francois Mitterrand used the grand occasion to make a stirring plea for women's equality.

"She was the symbol of a woman who imposed her capabilities in a society which too often reserves intellectual functions and public respon-sibilities for men," he declared as the remains of Marie and Pierre Curie, partners in life and in science, were ceremonially laid inside the neo-classical monument.

"In the name of France, I proclaim the hope that equality of rights between men and women may prevail everywhere in the world because the preference granted to men for centuries is unfair and beneath the dignity of civilised societies," he said. Science students carried two wooden coffins up Rue Soufflot in the heart of Paris' Latin Quarter to the domed Pantheon that bears the inscription: "A nation grateful to its great men."

The motto has long angered feminists who campaigned for Marie Curie, who discovered radiation and was first woman professor at the Sorbonne, to become the first women to be buried in the monument in her own right.

Feminists bitterly recalled she never enjoyed the right to vote, only granted to French women after World War II in

The Curies, previously buried in the Paris suburb of Sceaux, will lie alongside such illustrious figures as writers Voltaire, Rousseau and Victor Hugo and Socialist patriarch Jean Jaures.

In a ceremony reminiscent of the spectacular political festivities of the Mitterrand era, a string orchestra played Bach and dozens of pupils from Marie Curie High School in Sceaux bearing symbolic scientific emblems escorted the coffins.

Fittingly, Marie Curie will now also be close to the remains of Paul Langeuin. another great scientist who was her long-time lover after Pierre Curie's death in 1906. She died in 1934.

Polish President Lech Walesa recalled in a brief address that Marie Curie was born Marie Sklowdska in Poland and settled in France to pursue her studies when she was 24.

Marie Curie, who coined such terms as radioactivity, shared the physics Nobel Prize with her husband in 1903 and received the chemistry prize in 1911.

The tribute was one of Mr. Mitterrand's last official acts before his term as president ends next month. He inaugurated his own presidency in 1981 by walking to the Pantheon and laying a red rose on

Jaures' grave. Mr. Mitterrand, 78, stricken with prostate cancer, looked emaciated and his hair was sparse, but his oratory was as spellbinding as

ever heard," Mr. Young said.

"Everyone jumped out of

their seats, hit the floor, and

there was glass everywhere.

Fearing another attack.

lawmakers crawled out of the

building on their hands and

Most of the windows on

the northeast side of the

building were blown out. The

historic structure, where.

Canada's confederation was

negotiated in 1864, is one of

the country's most famous

Robert MacGregor,

another lawmaker, was

and papers were flying."

knees, he said.

tourist sites.

emergency room patients from a computer, called seven and told them they had tested positive for the HIV virus. One of her victims tried to commit suicide.

Priest lures

lovers to the

altar with lottery OSLO (AFP) - A priest in central Norway is luring lovestruck couples to the altar with a 20,000 kroner \$3,280 honeymoon lottery prize if they get hitched before June 20, according to the Adresse newspaper. Priest Bertel Aasen of Orkdal organised the lottery, in collaboration with local sponsors, in a bid to encourage family life in his parish. All couples who announce their marriage by June 20 will be in the running for the drawing of the prize. The only condition is that the couple either live in Orkdal or have family roots there. So far, 23 couples have taken Aasen up on his offer.

Suicide rate among U.S. children soars

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) — The suicide rate among U.S. children has soared since 1980 chiefly due to the growing availability of guns, the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) said in a report. Between 1980 and 1992, the suicide rate among 10- to 14-year-olds increased 120 per cent, from 0.8 per 100,000 to 1.7, and among 15- 19-year-olds the rate increased 28.3 per cent, from 8.5 to 10.9 per 100,000, the report said. By racial groups, the steepest rate increase was among black males, having risen 20 per cent in the 12year period from 8.5 per 100,000 to 10.1 per 100,000 Among black children aged 10 to 14, the rate jumped 300 per cent from about 0.5 to 2.0 per 100,000. The suicide rate among young white males. the highest overall, rose five per cent from 15.4 per 100,000 to 16.1 per 100,000, the report added. The reasons listed for suicide among children were drug abuse, aggressiveness, family problems and stress. The re-port, issued Thursday, said firearms were used in half of all suicides among people under 25 years in the same period. CDC physician Alex Crosby said suicidal children turned to guns because they were less likely to fail "We believe very strongly that guns around children are ticking time bombs," said Gwen Fitzgerald of the Centre to Prevent Handgun Violence. The overall suicide rate for people under 25 has held at a steady 5.5 per cent 100,000 in the period, with 5,007 taking their lives in 1992, the CDC report said.

Mehta to be musical director at Munich Opera

MUNICH, Germany (AP)-

World-famous director Zubin Mehta has signed a five-year contract to be general music director at the Bavarian Staatsoper, and Munich opera-lovers are mightily leased. "A stroke of luck for Munich," the local Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper enthused, a day after the 58-year-old Mehta's deal was announced. The Bombayborn Mehta's contract starts in 1998 and was said to oblige him to conduct 40 performances a year. Mehta is also musical director of the Israel Philharmonic and is former director of the New York Philharmonic. The Staatsoper also announced that Peter Jonas will continue beyond 1998 as overall manager, or intendant, and that Peter Schneider will remain under contract as chief conductor.

gary, but we don't know the final destination, but the rial hidden in a container in a so far we're sure it's uranium. Kiev asks for \$4b to close Chernobyl

KIEV (R) — Ukraine put a \$4 billion price tag on shut-ting down the Chernobyl nucler power station Friday and told the West to find the money if it wanted the stricken plant to be closed soon.

'Ukraine cannot close the Chernobyl nuclear power station independenty over a short period," said a government statement signed by acting Premier Yevhen Mar-

"Experts say that refraining from further use of the expenditures of \$4 billion. Such a broad-based programme is impossible without financial support from the

world community.' Under pressure from the West, President Leonid Kuchma pledged last week that Ukraine would close the plant - site of the world's worst nuclear accident nine years ago -- by 2000.

The Chernobyl fire and explosion, on April 26, 1986, sent radiation over much of Europe and contaminated station will require general large swathes of Ukraine,

Russia and Belarus, Ukraine says 8,000 people died as a

result of the catastrophe. But until Friday's statement, the government had refrained from naming specific costs or conditions of the closure. The statement said that to

close Chernobyl Ukraine needed a substitute power plant, either gas-fired, nuclear or coal-burning. The station's two working reactors still produce about five per cent of the country's elec-



Spanish opposition Popular Party leader Jose Maria Azbar encourages Sergio Delgado Haro (right) who was seriously injured in the bomb attack against Mr. Aznar in Madrid. Mr. the attack (AFP photo)

Aznar escaped the bomb attack with minor scratches to his face. Mr. Aznar visited victims at the La Paz Hospital who were wounded in

Aznar: Basque gunmen will not triumph

MADRID (AP) - The conservative opposition leader who narrowly escaped a carbomb attempt on his life Thursday warned Basque separatists that their terrorist methods would not succeed.

"They (the gunmen) are not going to triumph, they are going to fail," said Jose Maria Aznar after leaving the hospital where he had been under medical observation for 24 hours.

"These pathetic terrorists are not going to place the great Spanish nation in check," said the 42-year-old politician.

Mr. Aznar escaped injury in the blast Wednesday thanks to his heavilyarmoured car. The vehicle remained intact when about 20 kilogrammes (44 pounds) of explosives packed in a double-parked car blew up as he passed by on the way to

Sixteen other people were injured in the explosion, five seriously.

Mr. Anzar's Popular Party (PP), Spain's second-largest, has a strong chance of dislodging the ruling Socialists in general elections set for 1996 or 1997. It supports a strong centralised state and rejects Basque demands for greater self-rule.

Some other day, it could happen to someone else," Mr. Aznar said. "But whatever the case, I will continue working in every way I can to ensure that in our country

these things stop happening. The attack, blamed on the Basque separatist group ETA, was roundly condemned by the country's political parties and the media.

"ETA failed yesterday, roundly and fortunately, in the most destabilising attack carried out by the terrorist group," said the leading daily El Pais in a front-page edito-

'... Aznar represents the political option of a good part of our society and to assassinate Aznar means to decapitate one of the two alternatives for government in Spain's democracy," said the Barcelona-based daily La Vanguardia.

"The frustrated assassination confirms that ETA is the biggest threat to the peaceful coexistence of Spaniards," the newspaper added.

Only Herri Batasuna, the political arm of the ETA, distanced itself from the condemnations, saying the attack was "an armed response that surges from our own society with the aim of opening democratic channels for the "Yesterday it was my turn. survival of the Basque

ETA — whose name is a Basque-language acronym for Basque Homeland and Freedom — has killed more than 740 people in its 27-year violent campaign to secure the independence of northern Spain's three Basque provinces.

More than 500 alleged members of the organisation are in prison in Spain either serving sentences or awaiting trial.

The Basque gesture for peace group was to hold silent railies in different parts of the Basque country Thursday to condemn the attack. Three months ago, an ETA gunman shot and killed Gregorio Ordonez, the Popular Party's candidate for mayor of the Basque city of San Sebastian.

Wednesday's attack bore similarities to ETA's 1973 car-bomb assassination of Adm. Luis Carrert Blanco, then Prime Minister under Gen. Francisco Franco and expected to succeed the military dictator.

In contrast to the revulsion expressed over the attempt on Mr. Aznar's life, hundreds of thousands of Spaniards cheered the attack on Carrero Blanco as a blow against Franco's dictatorial regime.

Hailstones, rainstorm, tornado kill 37 in China

BELJING (R) - Hailstones as big as basketballs, a rainstorm and a tornado pounded China's southern Guangdong province, killing at least 37 people and leaving a trail of destruction, officials said Friday.

The hailstones, rainstorm and tornado struck Wednesday, injuring 453 people and leaving another 17 missing, provincial government officials said by telephone.

The storms left a trail of destruction, with economic losses estimated at 300 million yuan (\$35.6 million),

they said. "It was dark as night during the day," one official told

Reuters.

'We have hailstones, rainstorms and tornadoes every vear, but it is rare for all three to hit on the same day," the official said.

He said 37 people were killed, including one who was struck by lightning, according to the coroner's report. Several died after being hit by hailstones, while some

were sucked in and slammed to the ground by the tornado. "In Huizhou, we had hailstones as big as basketballs," the official said. The heaviest was found in Zhaoqing City,

weighing 15 kilogrammes.

About 293,000 people were affected, the officials said. A total of 2,197 houses collapsed, 16,993 houses were damaged and 128 boats capsized.

Officials said 1,756 electric poles were toppled, cutting off electricity to thousands of households. About 13,900 hectares

(34,300 acres) of farmland were flooded. The storm dumped 72mm (2.9 inches) of rain in some places Wednesday and

Thursday, weather officials The tornado, packing max-imum winds of 60 metres per second, pounded some villages for as long as 20 mi-

nutes, the officials said. The towns of Zhaoqing, Fuoshan, Zhongshan, Huizhou and Guangzhou were the hardest hit, and 11 neighbouring counties and 27 towns and villages were affected.

The storms damaged 35 dams and other water conservancy facilities. Container trucks and cars were overturned and many trees uprooted, the officials said. Several aircraft at Pingtan

Airport in the south of the province, were overturned, the Hong Kong-based and Beijing-funded Wen Wei Po newspaper said.

Blast damages Canadian legislature CHARLOTTETOWN, town, and called for help Prince Edward Island (AP)

- An explosison rocked one of Canada's most historic buildings, the Prince Edward Island legislature, injuring one man and sending a shower of glass over lawmakers. Glass and debris were burled at least three blocks by the Thursday afternoon blast, which took place when the 32-seat legislature was in

Investigators believe the explosion was caused by a bomb planted under a wooden wheelchair ramp that leads into the northeast entrance, said police spokesman

Const. Richard Collins. A motive for the bombing was not immediately known... Police cordoned off the area in the heart of downfrom the Royal Canadian Mounted Police bomb squad in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Security was immediately increased at other provincial legislatures, and authorities in nearby Dartmouth went on alert Thursday after the Chamber of Commerce received a printed threat saying a bomb could go off at any

The injured man was cut in the legs by flying glass while sitting on an outdoor bench. Police did not identify him but said his wounds were not life-threatening.

Lawmaker Ross Young was in the legislature when the explosion sent a cascade of jagged glass across the

"It was the loudest noise I

standing outside the building when the blast occurred. "This is a shocking affair, especially in light of what happened in Oklahoma," he

Singapore hangs 5 drug traffickers

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore hanged Friday five convicted drug traffickers, including three Hong Kong nationals, prompting an immediate appeal by Amnesty International for an end to the death sentence worldwide.

Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) said the five were executed at the gallows in Changi Prison the early morning hours, raising

to 111 the island republic's tally of drug hangings since 1975.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, had urged Singapore to spare the Hong Kong trio - two women and a man and the three were also the subject of other last-minute clemency pleas.

caught in 1991.

The two women were Tong Ching-Man, 24, and Poon Yuen-Chung, 22, and the man, Lam Cheuk-Wang, was

25. Lam and Tong were arrested together in December 1988, while Poon was

"We are very regretful of the Singapore government's position," Amnesty International spokesman Anthony Chiu said in Hong Kong.

"The three Hong Kong people were very young... Amnesty International asks every government to cancel the death penalty."

Simpson juror asks to be released

LOS ANGELES (R) — A juror in the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial asked Thursday to be released from duty, telling the judge, can't take it any more.' The juror, a 25-year-old black flight attendant, said

her request to be excused arose from "a combination of things throughout the last three months." The jury has been sequestered since Jan. 11. The panellist asked to be released during an afternoon

recess when she met with

Judge Lance Ito and attor-

neys from both sides in the

judge's chambers. Should the juror be re-leased and replaced by an. alternate it would reduce the number of standby panellists to five. Legal experts have expressed concern that with the likelihood of the trial dragging on for another six months, there could be more drop-outs, raising the spectre of a mistrial if fewer than 12

jurors are left. Judge Ito spoke to each juror individually in his chambers on Tuesday and Wednesday as part of an investigation into claims by a

dismissed juror that the panel of eight blacks, three whites and one Hispanic was torn apart by racial tensions.

Court spokeswoman Jer-rianne Hayslett said Judge Ito had not completed his investigation into the charges of Jeanette Harris, whom he booted off the jury last week, but that so far there was no evidence of jury misconduct. The juror who asked to be

dismissed resumed her seat in

the jury box after the recess,

but Judge Ito asked the

panellists to remain briefly in the jury room at the end of the court day, presumably to talk to them. Meanwhile, in Thursday's testimony, investigator Andrea Mazzola described how she collected a bloody glove, a cap and a bloodsmeared envelope from the scene where Simpson's ex-

Following her colleague, Dennis Fung, on the witness stand, Ms. Mazzola said she collected most of the physical evidence, including blood stains, from outside Nicole Brown Simpson's townhouse

wife and her friend were stab-

bed to death.

and from Simpson's estate two miles (3 km) away on June 13 last year, the day after the murders.

Prosecutor Hank Goldberg, anticipating another fierce attack by Simpson's defence team, as occurred with Mr. Fung, got Ms. Maz-zola to admit that certain statements she made during an earlier hearing in August last year were inaccurate,

Ms. Mazzola said she was

mistaken when she testified

that all the photographs of blood stains were taken with a scale placed next to them. She had also testified that Mr. Fung had picked up certain blood stains, but said Thursday she now remembered that it was she who had

collected them. Defence attorneys are trying to show that the evidence collected by Ms. Mazzola and Mr. Fung was con-

taminated by sloppy work. Simpson, an American football star who later became a popular sportscaster and TV pitchman, has pleaded not guilty to the murders of his ex-wife and Ronald Goldman, who were killed on the night of June 12.

المِكْذَا صِنْدُ لِلْمُصِيلُ

TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL

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ested positive to

virus. One of b tried to committee A Bosnian Serb soldier lights a cigarette as he sits on a 20mm, overlooking the Muslim stronghold in northern Bosnia (AFP Data - A Bosnian Serb soldier lights a cigarette as he sits on a 20mm, photo) Priest luis three barrel anti-aircraft cannon placed on Mount Majevica,

lovers to the U.N. puts on brave face as Bosnia truce bid fails

SARAJEVO (R) — The Uncentral Normal in ited Nations put a brave face on its failure to extend the with a 2000 line inghting erupted Friday better fact broken in ited Nations put a brave face on its failure to extend the with a 2000 line inghting erupted Friday better fact broken in ited Nations put a brave face on its failure to extend the with a 2000 line inghting erupted Friday better fact broken in ited Nations put a brave face on its failure to extend the with a 2000 line in the second put and a second put a second

newspaper he Leaders from both sides
Leaders from both sides
Leaders from both sides Aben of One Leaders from the loan of the loan, a to the old truce during talks with local man a total and the old truce during talks with U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi on Thursday.

passe all on "The mood is reasonable there. These were initial discussions to be sions, it was never going to be trained teasy. We expect Akashi will come back before the end of the month to pick up where things wer left off," U.N. is: Spokesman Lieutenant-Col-া আছু onel Gary Coward said.

The four-month ceasefire, Suicide tale marred by continued fighting among in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia, ends on May 1.

Childrenson Mr. Akashi's mission coincided with a rise in shelling in in the attacks and a claim by the - 🏗 😀 🗷 government army that it had - Single Scored gains on the battle-⊆ : - ≃ es field.

Army officers said on state the strike television their troops had and made captured important high Bernett Smill eground south-east of

ing a military push eastward. Sarajevo television showed ் பட்ட து திலையும் soldiers trudgin through deep snow around The Line Djokin Toranaj peak 40 kilometres from Sarajevo. which is surrounded by Serb the work was forces.

Bosnian Radio reported fighting in the Brcko area which straddles the vital corindor along the Sava River Among the bands in east-

em and western Bosnia.
Col. Coward said there was significant coi. Coward said there was significant military activity with attacks and counter-attacks in the Velika Kaldusa area in the northwest Bihac pocket.

pocket. Heavy shelling was reported along the confrontation line from Doboj to Kale-

sija in the northeast parts of central Bosnia, with over 3,000 detonations in that

An 82mm mortar landed Thursday evening within the Tito Barracks area of Sarajevo, close to the Ukrainian and French U.N. bases. Col. Coward reported no damage or injuries in the incident.

U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said: "It seems both sides are more and more inclined to actively breach the ceasefire. We are seeing it across the board, across the country.

The Bosnian government said it could not accept extending the current ceasefire, which expires on May 1. saying the Serbs only wanted to cement their territorial conquests while stalling on political negotiations. International pressure has

failed to move the Bosnian Serbs from their rejection of a peace plan drawn up by the major powers' contact group made up of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

The Security Council intends to relax some sanctions against rump Yugoslavia for another 75 days after a strugthat snowed shar sions among the United States and its allies spearheading Bosnia peace efforts.

The sanctions, affecting air travel and sporting and cultural ties, were scaled back temporarily last year in return for a pledge by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to cut off military supplies to neighbouring Bosnian Serbs.

The relaxation was conditional on good behaviour by Yugoslavia and the United States wanted the council to send a clear signal to Belgrade, believing cooperation with the Bosnian Serbs had



Saraievo residents run across a street as snipers open fire on them during U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi's visit in the Bosnian capital. After talks with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siljadzic, Mr. Akashi announced that the Bosnian leadership refused to extend the four-month truce (AFP photo)

Nations tood convoy has broken through into the Bihac pocket for the first time in more than two weeks, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said

Friday. The convoy carrying 320 tonnes of maize seed, tomatoes, potatoes and other basic foodstuffs entered the enclave from the south late Thursday night, said Alemka

Bihac is surrounded by both Bosnian and Croatian Serb forces as well as by Bosnian Muslims loyal to the rebel leader Fikret Abdic, and UNHCR convoys have U.S. gunman kills 2, injures before surrendering

cimcuity in gettin food supplies into the besieged population.

The last convoy to reach the enclave entered Bihac on April 5.

Meanwhile U.N. Secretarv-General Boutros Ghali recommended a re-organisation plan for U.N. forces in Croatia, cutting troops numbers from 12,000 to 8,750, according to a report to be released Friday.

However, he said he failed to get approval from the Zagreb government and rebel Serbs on where to deploy the troops but saw no substitute to Council adoption of the new plan.

Nelson by phone and bul-lhorn while scores of police

officers kept vigil around the

floodlit house. Neighbours

were evacuated to a church.

quoted Nelson's uncle as

saying that Nelson had

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Russia offers Chechen talks, sees the war over by May

MOSCOW (R) — Russia Friday offered to start talks with Chechen rebels on an unconditional ceasefire and predicted a "natural end" to the war by next month.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin made the offer in an appeal to the Chechen people read out at a conference in their capital Grozny.

"There will be no preconditions, and furthermore no repression," Interfax News Agency quoted the message

as saying. But it remains unclear whether talks will take place and there was no reaction from the Chechen side.

The former commander of Russian troops in the breakaway region last month ruled out ceasefire talks with rebels unless they laid down their arms and disbanded.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's statement, read out by Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Semyonov, included the offer of an amnesty "for those who were deceived into joining

the armed volunteers." Another Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakrai, said the conference in Grozny,

attended by 350 local officials, elders and religious leaders, was a positive sign. In an interview with Interfax News Agency, he predicted a natural end to the war towards the end of April,"

saying that the main pockets of resistance in the region had been crushed. "It is pointless to carry out military action in the mountains, where the remaining forces of the illegal armed

formation are being pushed

by the regular army," he In a separate report, Interfax quoted the Ministry of Transport as saying a key rail route linking Russia to the Transcaucasus had been reopened after seven months, allowing a goods train to travel through Chechenya to

Azerbaijan. Friday's upbeat reports contrasted with an admission by Russian military sources Thursday that they had suffered setbacks in their campaign to wine out forces loval to the mostly-Muslim re-

gion's separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. The leader of the Chechen administration installed by

Moscow was quoted as saying local agreements not to use airstrikes meant it could take a week to repel fighters holed up in a former Soviet missile site in the village of Bamut, near the border with Russia's district of Ingushetia.

NTV independent television quoted military sources as saying that a fresh attempt to take the town could not be made until the mountaions surrounding it were cleared of rebel fighters.

Military experts have said that a last push on several pockets of resistance clearly showed Russia was hoping to stop fighting before dozens of world leaders descend on Moscow for the May 9 anniversary of the allied victory in World War II.

Local human rights groups and foreign leaders have been extremely critical of Russia's Chechen campaign, in whch thousands of soldiers, rebels and civilians have been killed.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has faced domestic pressure not to attend the victory day celebrations and only announced recently, after hesitating for months, that he

Meanwhile six people died in gunbattles after a group of soldiers broke out of an army base in the Buryatia region of Siberia and were pursued by security forces, the Burvat Interior Ministry reported

Friday. Four members of the Russian security forces were among those killed.

The commander of the guard and deputy commander of the unit based near Ulan Ude, capital of the Burvat Republic, died when the soldiers fired on them during their break-out overnight Wednesday.

Two of the deserters were captured but the others fled by car. Police found them late Thursday near Ivolga, a village 30 kilometres from Ulan Ude.

. The deserters, armed with automatic weapons, fired on the police, killing one and wounding four others. One policeman later died of his wounds.

Two of the deserters were killed, one was captured and another fled during the police operation, the Burvat Interior Ministry said.

Japan struck by new reports of fumes

TOKYO (AFP) - Police launched a search for the leader of a doomsday sect believed behind for a murderous nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway as a similar but minor incident was reported in nearby Yokohama Friday.

In the latest incident at least 24 people were treated in hospital for sore throats, coughing and stinging eyes after inhaling fumes at a department store in Yokohama. Japan's second largest city, police said. The store was located only

100 metres from the teeming central railway station, where more than 600 people fell sick Wednesday afternoon after inhaling a foul-smelling gas of undetermined origin.

Dozens of others were also affected Friday by a similar acid-like gas on a train which passed by the station at the same time in what was described by police as a "deliberate assault on innocent people.

Victims reported that the fumes had no particular smell. They suffered from slight inflammation in the eves, nose and throat, doctors said.

"Their symptoms are very light. They can all go home. Hiroshi Yoshii, a doctor at Saiseikai, one of the hospitals, told reporters. Firefighters, wearing gas masks, chemical protection suits and oxygen tanks, worked with police to seal off and

scour the department store in late evening.
"I choked when I smelled it. I saw several other people coughing around, me," one young man told the Japan

Broadcasting Corp. (NHK). Another boy said, "My nose began to hurt and my mouth salivated a lot.'

The events occurred about a month after the March 20 attack on the Tokyo subway with sarin gas which killed 12 people and injured some

Police suspect the doomsday cult Aum Supreme Truth of masterminding the Tokyo attack but they have yet to announce the discovery of any decisive evidence.

Press reports Friday said police had launched a nationvide search for Aum's guru Shoko Asahara who, in an upcoming book, warns of a 'national disaster" if the government "oppresses a

The national police agency has ordered regional police headquarters across the nation to bring Asahara in for questioning if they are able to

400 ore British troops leave N. Ireland

AFP) — BELFA Another 400 _ritish soldiers were pulled out of Northern Ireland Friday in the second troop withdrawal since the Irish Republican Army's ceasefire almost eight months'

Officers and men of the 40th Regiment Royal Artil-

lery began leaving Royal Air Force Aldergrove, County Antrim, at breakfast time. They arrived in Belfast last January on a six-month

They are returning to Hohne, Germany, to begin a re-requirement and training

programme. They were all expected to be back in Germany by tonight.

This is the second major weeks - 5th Regiment Royal Artillery left Armagh (south) last month — and it now means up to 900 soldiers have been pulled out of the province since the violence stopped last August.

It is the second official since 1969, start of the sectarian conflict that left 3.173 dead and more than 36,500 wounded

Chirac appears confident as campaign nears end

PARIS (R) — French presidential front-runner Jacaques Chirac appeared confident of victory Friday, taking it easy two days ahead of the election's first round as his major rivals battled for a spot in the run-off two weeks

Mr. Chirac, the conservative mayor of Paris, planned a radio interview but no rallies on the last day of cam-

However his fellow-Gaullist rival, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, and Socialist Lionel Jospin, locked in a neck-and-neck race for second place, toured the country in a frantic search of last-minute support ahead of Sunday's vote.

Both urged electors to "vote usefully" on the first ballot rather than casting a symbolic protest vote for one of six other contenders who have no prospect of reaching the May 7 run-off.

Mr. Chirac, 62, warned campaign workers against over confidence at a meeting in the Paris suburb of Vincennes Thursday night.
"Nothing is decided," he

said. "Right up to the last minute, we must convince those who are hesitating or undecided. We know that there are many of them. Until the last minute, please remain engaged, remain ac-



French Socialist presidential candidate Lionel Jospin (2nd right) waves upon his arrival at his final campaign rally with his wife Sylviane (left), Lille Mayor Pierre Mauroy, campaign director Jacques Delors (centre) and campaign spokeswoman Martine Aubry (right). The tive, remain mobilised." land Friday.

latest polls show Mr. Jospin running second behind Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac with 19 and 21 per cent of the vote in the first round of the election. The official campaign ends tomorrow at noon (AFP photo)

The nine contenders are competing for the votes of France's 39.9 million electors, at least one-third of whom are expected to support fringe candidates, with the rest choosing among Mr. Chirac, Mr. Jospin and Mr. Balladur.

Opinion polls may not be published in France in the last week of the campaign, although some were published in Britain and Switzer-

The main suspense concerns the run-off if, as expected, no one wins a firstround majority in the race to succeed Socialist François Mitterrand, who has served two seven-year terms. The last polls published in

France gave Mr. Chirac a comfortable lead over Mr. Jospin, who was only slightly ahead of Mr. Balladur, Twice a loser in previous

presidential runs, Mr. Chirac

change, though he gave few policy details. He leapfrogged over Mr. Balladur, who was hit in late February by a wiretapping scandal, a Fanco-American spy row and controversy over

came from behind to sweep

into the lead in early March

with a promise of radical

his personal finances. Scrambling to recover, the prime minister tried to shed his aristocratic image and declared that he too stood for change, but without the risks and zig-zags he attributed to

Mr. Chirac. The Paris mayor sparked controversy this week with an attack on the governor of France's independent central bank, who had called for continued wage restraint.

Analysts said the attack could cut both ways, making Mr. Chirac look like a fighter to the common but scaring middle-class and older people concerned about monetary stability.

Mr. Balladur, boosted by veteran ex-Prime Minister Raymond Barre's attendance at his final rally in Lyon, focused Friday on voters tempted to cast a first-round ballot for fringe candidates on the right.

HADDON HEIGHTS, New with the killings of police patrolman John Norcross and "It sounded like a war was mined that Nelson had been starting," said Albert Boyne, arrested for possessing illegal nal gunman shot and killed a who was walking through the neighbourhood when the investigator John McLaugh-A search warrant was lin, officials said. shooting began. FBI negotiators spoke to Two police officers went to

ייבי דון אבון שבון Jersey (AFP) — A transsexpolice officer and investigatore and wounded the officer's brother, then held out for 14 hours and finally surren-tered, police said Friday. The gumnan, Leslie Nel-

son, was known as Glenn Beatty before his sex-change operation. He operation. He surrendered to Accepting them at bay for 14 hours, Camden County Prosecutor told journalists at the Nelson 22 police at 4:30 a.m. after keeping them at bay for 14

ROME (R) - Jitters hit Ita-

AUME (R) — Jitters hit Ita-With interpretation main political blocs with interpretation of regional elec-

Manager of the second of regional elec-line with the seated as a trial run for a

Fears that small parties

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deuls is a m rivals Silvio Berlusconi confined Meli the centre-right and Massers of Meli the centre-right and Massers of Meli the centre-right and Massers of Melion of Alexander of the Melion of the Me

the centre-right and Mas-

Some 90 per cent of Italy's

incided in Francial election.

Nelson's home Thursday to investigate charges of sexual abuse against a 3-year-old who lived there, but they noticed a semiautomatic handgun and a shotgun while speaking to the child's The name of the child and

his or her relationship to the gunman was not immediately

The police officers deter-

when the Northern League

issued for the premises, and the two officers and the investigator returned to the house in the early afternoon. The officers were trying to

execute the search warrant then they were shot. Assistant Prosecutor Joseph, Audino said.

Witnesses said they heard as many as 100 gunshots, and Nelson barricaded himself inside the house with the inves-

undergone a sex-change operation approximately two years ago. The uncle did not give his name. Mehta tou musical diff Jitters hit rival blocs in key Italian election

> aganda," he said. Italy has been governed since January by a stop-gap technocratic government

Berlusconi. Backed in parliament by the centre-left, Mr. Dini has set itself a limited four-point

da - immediately after the vote but also wants to draw emerging bipolar system in Italy that will put two distinct up the broad outlines of Itacamps against each other in a ly's 1996 state budget before the steps down.



general election now widely Polling stations are open expected this year. Mr. D'alema, who has said Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10p.m. (0500 to 2000 GMT). Exit he will see an 8-7 loss in the polls will be released right regions as essentially a draw French Prime Minister and presidential candi- of Reims, where he held a campaign meeting. after voting ends but the in Sunday's vote, is tipping date Edouard Balladur speaks to reporters in a The first round of elections is set for April 23 count will not begin until October as the likeliest plane returning to Paris from the eastern city (AFP photo) Monday morning.

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to the state of the second sec assemblies in 15 of Itaregions. Provincial and publishment of the mount elections will discuss take place in many areas. philadillonia he elections will be the A 41.33 E er also annual ne elections will be the er also will be the since media magnate Bersince media magnate Bersoni resigned as prime dister last December after sense of the stormy aristatics 18 y 27 en stormy months in ce. o the mar mit and with weir

fr. Berlusconi, felled

party pulled out of his government, has said he will regard even the slimmest of victories for his Freedom Alliance coalition as endorsement of his call for a snap parliamentary election as earas June. "Moderate voters should

know that what is at stake this time is the future of the country," Mr. Berlusconi told supporters in Florence on Thursday night.

"Every vote given to a single party that has no chance of winning is a wasted vote and a gift to the left," he

Mr. Berlusconi was referring to the small reformists group of maverick Marco Pannella, an occasional ally who has decided to go it alone in the elections.

The centre-left, in which Mr. D'Alema's ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) is the dominant

force, faces similar problems from the Marxist party Communist Refoundation and the League, which is running alone in its northern heartland.

Mr. D'Alema has appealed to backers of the two parties to give the second of their two votes to the centre-left The regional elections take

place under a new system by which 80 per cent of seats are assigned by proportional representation and the remainder by direct voting. The system has given further encouragement to an

"Those who talk about a June election are doing so merely for reasons of prop-

headed by Lamberto Dini, a former central banker and treasury minister under Mr.

programme. He is expected to present a proposal on pension reform — the last item on his agen-

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Terrorism hurts everybody

THE EXPLOSION that ripped through a nine-storey U.S. federal office building in the heart of Oklahoma City Wednesday morning and took the lives of tens of innocent people including children and injured so many others has shocked the international community and caused pain and sorrow worldwide. Never has the world been so united in condemning a terrorist attack than in the aftermath of this carnage. Countries, big and small, and factions from the right and the left have all joined the international chorus that unanimously denounced the bombing attack against a civilian target.

In view of the similarity of the Oklahoma bombing with the 1993 terrorist explosion at the World Trade Centre, some observers have already hinted that some Muslim extremists could be behind the latest act. Others have insinuated that an American religious sect could have

been behind it.

But whoever committed the heinous crime, and whatever their reason, we in Jordan as elsewhere in the Middle East remain resolute in our condemnation of any and all terrorist acts that aim to undermine the course of stability and humanity worldwide. His Majesty King Hussein snoke for all of us when he sent a cable to U.S. President Bill Clinton not only to denounce the massacre but also to offer all assistance in the efforts to apprehend the culprits.

The people of Jordan are equally stunned by the attack but fear the implications and the shock waves. At the same time, though, we have to warn against any attempt to stereotype Arabs and Muslims, as indeed happened in the past, especially that guilt by association is wrong at best. Any precipitous backlash against one country or people or religion or another is alien to a fair sense of justice. We therefore hope that the international community would join in one coordinated and concerted effort to apprehend the culprits and all those associated with them without pointing an accusing finger towards one direction or another unjustifiably and unnecessarily.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily commented on Iraq's rejection of the latest U.N. Security Council resolution allowing Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil to buy drugs and food by saying that the rejection could be a wrong move because the Iraqi people are dire need of assistance. Sultan Al Hattab said the Iraqi leadership could regret its action later when it realises that the West is not concerned over the sufferings of Arabs; nor is it affected by the Baghdad rejection of the resolution. The Western powers, which are doing a grave injustice to the 18 million Iraqis, are not moved by reports of the death of Iraqi children, he said. In light of Baghdad's rejection of the U.N. resolution, Western media would now present the Iraqi regime as the party which does not seek an end to the sanctions to alleviate the suffering of its people, said the writer. I had wished that Baghdad would accept the U.N. resolution because it could mean the start of a complete lifting of the sanctions and a partial alleviation of the suffering of its people, added the writer. He said that Iraq's foes are the only party that is rejoicing now over Baghdad's decision.

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i, described the convening of the General Assembly of the Arab Thought Forum in Doha as a significant event aimed at ending the rift among the Arabs after many years of disarray. The meeting of representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations after a long break caused by the events in the Gulf means a great deal to the Arab World as it opens new dialogues aimed at reconciling Arab people and Arab governments, said the writer. Urging the scholars meeting in Doha to help bridge the gap among Arab countries, the writer said that their meeting in one of the Gulf states was important, noting that their efforts would be well appreciated by the Arab masses. The writer said that failure of the scholars and thinkers to influence the public in the past was largely due to the lack of support they should have received from Arab governments. The resumption of the meetings, said the writer, rekindles new hopes in the hearts of the Arab people for a

Oklahoma bombing is a crime against humanity REGARDLESS of whoever was behind it, Wednesday's important in Washington strumbles in his combing in Oklahoma that killed dozens of Americans.

REGARDLESS of whoever was behind it, Wednesday's bombing in Oklahoma that killed dozens of Americans, including many children, is an act that should be condemned in the strongest terms. There can be no justification whatsoever for the crime, and whoever perpetrated it deserve(s) the maximum penalty on earth.

Perhaps the Oklahoma explosion is one of those rare incidents over which the civilised world is united. Those who have the slightest sympathy for whoever was behind the bombing do not belong to the civilised world; they come from the darkest corners of human mind.

The blast comes at a time when vested interest groups in the West have stepped up their campaign against Muslims and Arabs, highlighting the negative interpretation of Islam, particularly taking heart from extremism that we see today in Egypt and Algeria.

No doubt, these groups would exploit the incident to any extent to serve their goal of discrediting Muslims and Arabs, giving little credit to the fact that most of the militant groups in the Middle East have denounced the blast in severe terms and denied having played any role in the incident.

The campaign against Arabs and Muslims has reached such a high point that it is not beyond imagination to see accusing fingers pointed at Muslims and Arabs if someone

It was very telling that in less than 30 minutes after the explosion, a local television station in Oklahoma reported that police were looking for three people with "Middle Eastern" appearance who were "seen leaving the area" shortly before the blast. The report, which was subsequently denied, exposed the mindset of many in the United States that any "terrorist" incident anywhere in the world cannot but be linked to the Middle East, particularly Muslims and Arabs.

Then came the all-point bulletin for "two white men" and the arrest of a man in London who was subsequently flown back to the U.S.

The next few days should produce more details of the investigations, and only then we might be able to get any inkling of who were behind the dastardly crime and what motivated them to undertake it.

That is only one part of the incident. The other is the fallout that the Middle East and the Arab and Islamic world would suffer even if it was proved that it was a strictly American group, like the Branch Davidian whose followers have an axe to grind with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, behind the explosion.

It was only natural for the world media to see similarities between the Oklahoma explosion and the Feb. 26, 1993,

link those implicated in the World Trade Centre attack with the Oklahoma bombing. By extension, the picture that is brewing in the American mind is that of people from the Middle East bent upon wreaking havoc in the United States - "bringing Middle Eastern terrorism to American homes," as many columnists in the U.S. call it.

Reports from the Philippines that Arabs were allegedly involved in the running conflict between the government and dissidents in that country are another brick against the efforts of the Middle East, particularly Jordan and similarminded countries in the region, to get across their message that they are as committed as anyone else in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

What options do we have in our drive to stamp out the root causes of extremism, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere? Very little, given the gaping socio-economic differences in the region at every level of the society.

But that should not lead us to lowering our vigil and slackening our campaign against all forces of evil, regardless of whatever name they assume and whatever ideologies they propagate because it is from those names and ideologies that incidents like the World Trade Centre and Oklahoma bombings are likely to be born in sick minds.

International effort needed to fight terrorism

By Elia Nasrallah

THE OKLAHOMA blast, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the Iragi quéstion and a host of domestic issues featured in the local Arabic press last

Condemning the blast in

Oklahoma, a writer in Al Dustour said the fact that acts of terrorism have started to occur in such major and advanced nations like the United States and Japan indicates that terrorism knows no boundaries. Indeed, terrorism has become an international problem that cannot be fought through regular armed forces and rockets but through international cooperation and the establishment of justice, said Taher Al Adwan. It is regrettable, the writer said, that the world Zionism and certain Western media have been exploiting this terrorist act to accuse the Arabs and Muslims of being behind it. He said that Arab and Muslim nations have a duty to confront such practices at the diplomatic levels.

Echoing the writer's call, Al Dustour daily said in an editorial that Israel has promptly tried to exploit the tragic situation in a manner that would best serve its interests. Accusing the Arabs and Muslims of being the perpetrators of the Öklahoma blast will do nothing to solve the international terrorism ques-

tion, said the paper. International terrorism, which has wreaked havoc in the world, has now reached the United States, it said. The attack was not directed at women and children in the building, but rather at the United States as a major power that has been acting as the police of the world, making a lot of enemies, it

ducted by Hamas and its allies are serving the interests of the Palestinian people and speeding up the liberation of Palestine. The Israeli government is wrong to believe that its security measures against the Palestinians can stop the heroic actions.

resistance activities con-

Basam Emoush, a writer in Al Ra'i, described the

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Another Al Dustour columnist said that the United States is now paying the price of adopting double standards in its dealings with world questions and the terrorists are expected to launch further attacks to hurt America. Mohammad Kawash said that through its policies, the United States has made more enemies than any other nation, and through its provocative attitude in dealing with the developing nations, it has paved the ground for the creation of terrorist groups which are now targetting American interests.

Urging the various Palestinian groups and factions to follow the example of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, a writer in Shihan said that Israel understands only the language of violence and force. Bassam Haddadin, who is a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said the heroic

Camp David accords and the Oslo agreements as means helping the Israelis to impose and perpetuate their domination over the Palestinian lands. The columnist, who is member of the Islamic Action Front parliamentary bloc, said that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) is finding itself more and more isolated and heading for con-frontation with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, saying that the Palestine authority is falling under pressure from the United States and Israel to crack down on Hamas and its allies, the writer said that the Palestine authority will soon be losing its credibility since

national aspirations. Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Israeli leaders' statements that reflect their country's obstinate stand

the masses believe only in

the actions of those who

help them achieve their

the opponents of peace in the region and are bound to reflect negatively on the peace process. The writer said that Israel is refusing to withdraw its forces from the Palestinian lands, is dragging its feet on the question of withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and is telling the Egyptians that it is determined to hold on to its nuclear arsenal. The writer said that the future is not on the side of Israel whose aggressive policies are provoking the Arabs. He said that the future strategic weapon that would have a crucial impact in the Arab-Israeli conflict is the demographic bomb, which

vis-a-vis the occupation of

Arab lands can only please

the Arabs possess Jordan's call on Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) reflects the Kingdom's belief that nuclear weapons can never make peace, said Al Aswaq newspaper. Only iustice and real security acceptable to the Arabs and their future generations, said the paper, can create the right atmosphere of stability, security and peace. Since peace has become the strategic option for the parties in the Middie East, there can be no need for nuclear weapons because, peace should not be imposed through threats and force, said the daily.

A writer in Al Ra'i condemned Turkey's invasion of northern Iraq under the

pretext of fighting the Kurds. Instead of resorting to the U.N. Security Council to complain against the alleged Kurdish attacks on Turkish positions, and instead of discussing the issue with the Iraqi government, Ankara sent in its troops in total disregard to Iraq's sovereignty, said Yousef Abdullah Mahmoud. The invasion of Iraq, which suffers from crippling sanctions, is not justified under any norms or laws, although it is supported by the United States which advocates the so-called new world order. A writer in Al Dustour

said that Iraq has complied with all U.N. resolutions, subjected its facilities to international inspection. withdrew its forces from Kuwait, recognised Kuwait's international borders and has been living in peace with its southern neighbour. It is time that the world community lifted the sanctions on the Iraqi people and allowed Iraq to sell its oil freely, said Michael Jumeian. The writer said that the world community ought to find a way to terminate the sanctions and stop being prisoner of America's whims and desires, because, he said, the. United States' adamant position towards the sanctions is motivated by its desire to lay its hands on Iraq's oil wealth.

A writer in Al Ra'i urged the concerned authorities to launch a nation-wide campaign to urge people to register for voting in the July municipal elections. Nazih said that so far it has been noticed that public turnout for registration is poor and it is feared that rush for registration could take place as the deadline for the process nears. To avoid complications and the rush, said the writer. the concerned authorities ought to take some action that would save the country a real crisis.

Advising the voters in the municipal elections to elect the right person for the right position. Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that it is time that the people realised the fact that voting in municipal elections is part of the democratic process. It is the duty of Jordanian citizens to choose honest and dedicated persons to run their municipalities affairs and improve municipal services, said the writer.

As Jordanians keep calling for the establishment of institutions and building the state of law, they must insist that the events at the University of Jordan be dealt with firmly and through the law, said Abdullah Al Khatib, a writer in Al Dustour. The time has come, said the writer, for Jordanians to put the concept of law before the tribal considerations and to hold those responsible for the clashes accountable for their actions.

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Amid sanctions, private sector booms in revolutionary Libya

By Anthony Shadid The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya - Mercedes cars, Italian shoes, American stereos and designer clothes clutter the swank shops along Gergeresh Street in one of Tripoli's ritziest neighbourhoods. Business is booming in once-aurtere, revolutionary Libya.

Three years after U.N. sanctions were imposed, Libya's private sector has gained momentum, surprising diplomats and fore-igners accustomed to the bare shelves of the 1980s and filling the pockets of an emerging merchant class in Libya's big cities.
"There's an embargo but

you can get everything," said Stefan Sterzik, a semior accountant at Wintershall-Libya, a German oil company. "But, of course, it's for a special price."

The sanctions — a ban on air travel, an arms embargo and the downgrading of diplomatic links - appear to have forced Coi. Muammar Qadhafi's regime into a delicate balancing act.

Keen to curry the favour of Lihya's wealthy, Col. Qadhafi has given a free reign to imports and exports. The poor, meanwhile, still receive heavily subsidised basic goods, softening the crunch of inflation. At the official rate. \$3 equals one Libyan dinar. On the black market, \$1 buys 3.35 dinars.

Flour, sugar, tea, cooking oil, tomato paste and rice are sold at bargain sub-sidised prices. A loaf of bread or a kilogram of sugar, for instance, costs a few cents. Education and health care are free. Despite pressure from

the United States, the sanctions have not been broadened to curb Libya's oil sales because of reluctance by European custom-Still, sanctions have had

some effect, especially on those with fixed incomes. In 1990, an estimated 70 per cent of all salaries Libyan workers were on the government payroll. Some haven't been paid in months, diplomats say, and inflation has drastically cut their purchasing power. The average government worker makes about 250 dinars a month.

But that hasn't stopped the boom in parts of Tripoli. Stores along Gergeresh Street sell toys from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, Satellite dishes from Egypt, England and Korea, and

humanity have been harmed

by the Oklahoma bombing by

shoes from Italy and Spain. Imported foods are stacked on shelves In a 300-metre stretch,

five stores are being built. "In 1991, the stores and shops were simple and limited and work was difficult. But there's growth now," said Brer Mohammad Ibrahim, a 26-year-old Sudanese immigrant working at a store selling Kitchenware from Egypt, Italy and Japan.

He, too, complains about prices but says business is

"The middle class isn't necessarily bigger, but their thinking definitely is," Mr. Ibrahim said. A few stores down, at a

satellite dish distributor, a Libyan named Ali who refused to give his last name. said there's been marked growth over the past few years. His most expensive dish goes for 8,000 dinars (\$2,400), and he says he has

"There is vibrancy and there's development," he said. "Step by step, it's increasing." He described the freedom given to businessmen as "compensation for the sanctions.

As Ali said, a taxi driver, put it, "there's a new store going up every day."

It's a far cry from the radical economic measures once taken by Col. Qadhafi in his push for "Islamic socialism."

In the late 1970s, all importing was transferred to 62 public corporations. A large number of private companies were taken over by so-called worker's committees, part of Col. Qadhafi's decentralised system known as the "mass state."

In 1981, all retail shops were told to close and retail business was to be taken over by state-administered supermarkets, but the plans were never fully carried out. The state supermarkets were poorly organised and fraught with shortages, giving rise to a thriving black market.

But after the collapse in the price of oil, which accounts for 99 per cent of Libya's exports, Col. Qadhafi undertook some efforts at privatisation. Now he's prone to extoil the virtues of private enter-

Western diplomats say how he balances the needs of the poor with the growth of the private sector may determine how long he can stave off bigger repercussions from the sanctions.

King condemns

Beirut.

"We condemn the bombing in Oklahoma because we reject under any alibi any act targeting innocent people and children," Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadiallah, the spiritual guide of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah

the 1993 World Trade Centre blast in New York and by bombings in Europe, "Neither Islam nor Christ-Sheikh Fadlallah's com-

ianity has anything to do with ments were made in his such acts." he said, adding weekly sermon at a mosque that children and innocent in predominantly Shiite south people must be protected anvwhere. He said all levels of Japanese Prime Minister

victims of the bombing. "I deeply sympathise with your grief," Mr. Murayama said in a message to President Clinton. "I hope the government of the United States will overcome this tragedy."

In Jakarta, Indonesia expressed deep concern over the April 19 bombing, de-Tomiichi Murayama has exscribing it as "irresponsible" perienced his condolences to and "against bumanity.

LETTERS

Action needed to protect Kingdom from irresponsible tourists

To the Editor:

I READ with great interest Mr. G. Saudi's letter to the editor "The Israeli tourism threat" (Jordan Times, April 11). "One hears a lot about the acts of Israeli tourists in Jordan but feels inclined to dismiss what he/she hears as rumours. but with a responsible person like Mr. Saudi speaking about these acts. I believe this issue should be taken up seriously. We all know that in Israel there is a penalty for picking wild flowers, particularly from the roots. Environmental awareness has become global. As a Jordanian proud of our heritage and concerned about the environment, I find it difficult to keep accepting the continuation of such an "abuse" of our heritage and

As a citizen, I appeal to our non-governmental organisa-tions (NGOs) to take action to protect our heritage and the environment. I think it could prove fruitful if they can coordinate and cooperate and come up with a solution. I have great confidence that they will be able to remedy what

It is ironic that the same edition of the Jordan Times that carried Mr. G. Saudi's letter also reported that an Israeli carried on the Jordan and was briefed on the Jordan and was briefe carried Mr. G. Saudi's letter also reported that an Israeu team visited a wildlife reserve in Jordan and was briefed on the works of one of Jordan's environmental societies, the

Lamia Nasser,

Arousing readers' interest

To the Editor:

I, TOO, am a reader of Dr. Majdoubeh's excellent essays. which appear in the Jordan Times on Thursdays. His topmare timely and cover a wide array of societal and the state of the which appear in the Jordan American of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely are timely and cover a wide array of societal are timely are English the many

Sue Dahden Chicago

Monday an ordinary ses-

Security Council Resolution

No. 986 and its negative im-

pact on the life of the Iraqi

people," the official Al Iraq

newspaper reported on Fri-

The paper gave no further details but said the assembly

had asked its 250 members to

Iraq has been barred by the

U.N. from exporting its oil

since Iraqi troops invaded

Knwait in 1990, precipitating

the Gulf war which drove the

Iragis out of the emirates.
The U.N. earlier this

month renewed and

sweetened an offer to Iraq to

let it sell limited amounts of

oil — up to \$2 billion worth

over six months — to buy

foods and medicines, but Iraq

has seen the proposal as an

infringement on sovereignty.

Iraq is particularly unhap-

py with the U.N. monitoring

of food distribution inside the

country and the earmarking of \$130 million to \$150 mil-

lion for U.N. relief program-me to aid rebel Kurds in

The mayor of the Iraqi

capital said Friday Baghdad's 4.5 million inhabitants are

suffering from severe water

shortages and insanitary con-

ditions because of the U.N.

Mohammad Taher Hassun

appealed for help for the city

as it celebrated annual Bagh-

dad Day, marking its founda-

"Supplies of drinking wa-

ter and sewage treatment are

in a terrible state of disrepair

since the bombardment of

installations during the 1991

"This is likely to increase

the number of deaths among

the population," the mayor

He said he had sent mes-

sages to his counterparts in

other Arab countries asking

them to help "save the histor-

ic city of Baghdad" and se-

cure the lifting of the embar-

northern Iraq.

ambargo.

tion in 762.

AFP.

the World Trade Centre, Belling that that people are also seeling the World Trade Centre. the American mind is that of people and the Eustern terrorism to a little and the Eustern terrorism to a little and the little and the Eustern terrorism to a little and the little and th A Meddie Eastern terrorism to A Schummists in the U.S. call a M Philippines that Arabs were a descriptions that Arabs were at the country are another but the final country to cet across the city. off take particularly lorden and it is the texton, to get across there is anyone else in

temper whether in the Middle the battle given the gaping should be regard at every level of the sales shall tend us to lowering on the and they desume and whateverse because it is from those man catherine like the World Trade Can age are their to be bom in set.

terrorism

compaign to wie by ung the tewning. 12 municipal de in Course Nazin said that wis-Maria : No STANGES ON een noticed that furnous for region and n Av.: and it is fait; the wage rash for legistrator rinnen: lake place 3 the State on an the process less n Iraq's avoid complication Till or the rosh sad the g and the the concerned arts. duch sulnught to take some Marie William that would greden ed under 144 ് ലേത്യം writed ... Automog the tox क्षेत्र जायमानात्वे वद्यात ን **ም**ስ ፣ earn mylm consu Alcal new the out posted f Dunt Out of a Medical Der a militair sumplies is and a street the many the second second La marine na seeme author e mark Breite t. familiar to the c Es fried the date of letter 囊性19色点 mai but .161ff X and defined theme into the rupopel

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LETTERS

n needed to : Kingdom for onsible tourist

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The matter of the state of the A service and the first head of the service and the service at the The second of the second secon The A Committee of Nature Lewis &

sing readers its approval, the sources said. Italian police said they had inspected Mr. Ahmad's lug-

gage in Rome where they found it contained materials

huggage had been examined by U.S. security in Chicago before being sent on Rome

Sile said the three bags were

Iraqi assembly humanii to debate U.N. oil plan Monday

BAGHDAD (Agencies) -Iraq's parliament will meet on Monday to discuss a U.N. Baghdad has the capacity to supply just nine million offer to let Baghdad export cubic metres of drinking waoil to pay for humanitarian ter per month compared to 45 needs, an official newspapper million before the Gulf war, said on Friday. Mr.Hassun said. Iraq's cabinet has already

"The quota for each citizen flatly rejected the proposed has therefore fallen from 320 deal and it has been strongly litres to 128 of water a day," criticised by ministers and in he said, adding that the poor the official press.

The National Assembly state of distribution networks and the lack of the necessary (parliament) is to hold on chemicals to treat the water were to blame. sion... to discuss articles and paragraphs of the latest

Mr. Hassun said the authorities had been forced to reduce the concentration of chlorine in water to a fifth of its original level.

"Medical centres have reported a large rise in the number of illnesses" arising from the deterioration in the city's sewage treatment, he

A shortage of waste disposlorries means around 21,000 tonnes of refuse piles up every month in the streets of Baghdad, which covers an area of 900 square

"For five years Baghdad has seen no repairs. Spare pieces for our sanitary equipment are missing and the lack of foreign currency prevents us from repairing or replacing it." Mr. Hassun complained.

Iraq said meanwhile allied warplanes had brought a petrochemicals plant grinding to a halt this month by breaking the sound barrier when policing a no-fly zone in the south of the country.

Shock waves damaged the plant's instruments, the rulng Baath Party newspaper said, quoting an official source from the Iraqi Minis-try of Industry and Minerals. "On April 11... planes of the hated forces of the thirtystate aggression (U.S. and allies) broke the sound bar-

The paper said the breaking of the sound barrier was repeated on April 12 over the same complex, close to Iraq's

rier over the petrochemical complex," the newspaper

southern city of Basra. "There was no visible damage but the ensuing vibration affected the eq instruments and led to their stoppage," the source told

the paper. U.S., Britain and France, main allies during the 1991 Gulf war, have set up two air-exclusion zones in Iraq one in the north to protect rebel Kurds and the other in the south to guard dissident

flight from London to Rome

as unaccompanied baggage

because they had already undergone U.S. inspection.

sentatives in Chicago on

Thursday had decided - for

reasons the spokesman did

not explain - to "call the

attention of American au-

thorities, police and customs

officials, to this passenger.

then took the passenger and

his bags in for examination.

They then released the in-

spected baggage and said the

board the flight to Rome,"

and the flight left without

Oklahoma City to Chicago

on Wednesday night, but

failed to board a plane for

Rome despite the fact his

luggage had already been

He was detained by FBI

agents who thought he

looked suspicious, ANSA re-

ported. Afterwards, he de-

cided to fly to London in-

stead but was detained there

after agents tipped off the

British police.

him, the spokesman said.

Alitalia press service said.

passenger would arrive to

But the man was delayed

Mr. Ahmad travelled from

The American authorities

Alitalia said its local repre-

Palestinian 'suspect' released taken on board an Alitalia

(Continued from page 1)

questioned by federal officials at the Chicago airport right after the blast and was released. He then flew to London, where British officials detained him at the request of the United States and sent him back for more questioning Thursday even-

one FBI official said Mr. Ahmad could have fit the profile of suspected perpetrators and he simply may have been "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

A Jordanian government statement said Mr. Ahmad was born in the Israelioccupied West Bank town of leuin in 1963. He went to the United States nearly 10 years ago to study electrical engineering, stayed on and gained U.S. citizenship, the statement added.

The statement said: The government of Jordan emphasises its firm stand against terrorism in all shapes and forms," the statement said. Jordan condemns terrorism and reiterates its readiness to cooperate with all parties concerned to fight terrorism, and those who support and/or endorse it."

The vinyl cases contained Mr. Ahmad's luggage in no explosives, but material described as useful in making Rome was seized by the FBI. bombs. Among the items Italian police turned the found were: electrical tape, luggage over to U.S. investisilicone, a hammer, alumigators, who are expected to num foil and tweezers. Also send them back to the United packed inside were a video States as soon as Italy gives cassette recorder and a photo album with pictures of mis-

siles and weapons. Italian police said. Officials said the bags arrived on an Alitalia flight en route to Amman.

One of the bags carried a luggage tag bearing the handwritten name Abrahim Ahmad and an address written as 1,820 NW 40, Okc. One of brown bags was almost completely covered in tan-coloured tape.



Rescue teams climb over debris on Thursday at the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City (AFP photo)

Oklahoma blast toll rises

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. children that the bombing in no way reflected nor-mal behaviour.

"My message to the chil-dren is that this was an evil thing and the people who did it were terribly horribly wrong," Mr. Clinton said.

"I don't want our children to believe something terrible about life and the future and of this awful thing."
Mr. Clinton said the inves-

tigation was "moving ahead" and stated that he and his wife, Hillary, would travel to Oklahoma City to attend a special memorial for the victims of the tragedy.

As the death toll climbed, assistant fire chief Jon Hansen raised the possibility of more heartbreak. Mr. Hansen said firefighters have searched through about three quarters of the building, but that the remaining onequarter included the area of a chilo-care centre.

The investigation has been surrounded by a whirlwind of rumours, speculation and unconfirmed reports, some of them laying blame on Middle Eastern groups, American right-wing extremists and, in one widely-reported exam-ple, drug dealers targetting the office of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency MEA).

"We have not ruled out any motive or any avenue of investigation at this point,' said Weldon Kennedy, the special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in charge of the probe.

The FBI said Thursday it was seeking two white men for arrest in connection with the bombing. Other law enforcement

sources and several developments suggested, however, that the trail of the killers led not abroad, but to the United States itself.

"This looks less international as we move along and get more information about these two suspects," a law enforcement official said, speaking on condition that he not be named.

The official's remarks came as the Justice Department announced it had freed a Palestinian-American man who was repatriated to Washington from London on Thursday for questioning in connection with the attack. (see separate story).

Middle, East groups have already denied any connection to the attack and officials were discouraging pursuit of theorising about Middle East links.

A New York daily reported that federal authorities had identified the two main suspects and linked them to drug trafficking, but a law enforcement official who would not be named discounted that line of inauto parts are marked with

quiry.
"The drug theory is bogus," he said. "It came A federal law enforcement from a faulty informant." . CNN television meanwhile reported that investigators had identified the suspects by nted in Kansas. name and had narrowed their whereabouts to a particular

The bombing Wednesday was the deadliest attack of its ever in me States, surpassing an incident in 1927 when a man blew up a school, killing 45 people in-cluding 38 children.

It wrought devastation spanning several blocks of central Oklahoma City, damaging around 75 neighbouring buildings as well, officials said.

The FBI said investigators were analysing a film from a surveillance camera at a nearby building. However, it said the film was damaged, and added that it did not know if it contained anything signifi-

The painstaking search for bodies continued at the wreckage of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building and concern rose about what would be found when searchers entered the area of the child-care centre.

So far, authorities have identified 12 children among the dead. It is not clear how many children were in the centre, or whether the dozen found so far were among them or were elsewhere in the building.

The director of the centre. Melva Noakes, said there were never more than 30 children enrolled there, and at least six are known to have been absent on Wednesday when the bomb went off. As the search for bodies

slowly progressed, investigators fanned out in a wide manhunt for the two suspects described by the FBI. The agency issued drawings of them Thursday, which suggested that a tattoo and a crew cut were about all that distinguished them from countless other mediumbuild white men. They were believed to have rented the truck that carried the halftonne homemade bomb, FBI

agent Kennedy said. Their identities — and their motive - were unknown, Mr. Kennedy said. He speculated they may have wanted "some revenge on the federal government as an entity or one of the agencies

housed in that building." U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno announced a \$2 million reward for information leading to arrests in the

An axle thought to have come from the vehicle was found about two blocks away, according to a police source who spoke on condition of anonymity. Major an ID number to thwart

official who spoke on condition of anonymity said inves-tigators believe the truck was Dave Russell, a Ryder

truck rental official, said the FBI contacted his company about a truck rented from Elliott's body shop in Junckilometres from Oklahoma City. Mr. Russell said he could not comment further.

A law enforcement source in New York told the Associated Press that one suspect is Asad R. Siddigy, a cab driver from the New York City Borough of Queens, who arrived in Oklahoma City about an hour before the blast.

The FBI, federal firearms agents and Dallas police took a calendar, address book and bag containing clothes from an apartment building Wednesday night, according to a search warrant provided by a man who identified him-

self as Mr. Siddigy's brother. The man said he was questioned by the FBI. He denied that he or his brother had anything to do with the flow of trade. bombing. He would not provide personal information about their occupation or

nationality. ABC News and a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official insisted Friday officials know the names of the two suspects.

In addition, both ABC and New York Newsday newspaper said the two suspects vere tied to a drug investiga-

Vincent Cannistraro, a former chief of CIA counterterrorism operations, said on ABC that there could be arrests by the end of the day.

"They already know their identities and I think they ca.' have a fair idea of where they are located. So I think a major part of the investigation itself is over," Mr. Cannistraro said, citing unspecified "source information." He said the FBI's reason

Prince Ahmad Ben Abdul for identifying the men initially as "John Does" may have been to avoid tipping them off about how close they may be to arrest. ABC added that the two bore a "remarkable resemblance" "We welcome all of the to men who had been under investigation by the Drug En-

forcement Agency.
The FBI sketches of the two called them both John Doe, a law enforcement practice for a person whose identity is unknown.

The founder of the white supremacist, segregationist Nationalist Movement, Richard Barrett of Learned, Mississippi, said Friday federal agents had questioned a former member of his group about the sketches.

Draft self-rule accord ready

(Continued from page 1) newspaper and confiscated plates of what would have been Saturday's edition.

Owner Adnan Al Khatib said they showed him a warrant from the Palestinian Au-"I hope it's the last time

they try ideological terror-ism," he said, adding that he

would still try to bring out the "The publication of such a newspaper would be proof that democracy reigns in the

Gaza Strip," he said. Al Umma supports Ahmad Jibril's hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and has launched scathing attacks on Mr. Ara-

However, preventive security chief Jibril Rajub, who is based in Jericho, denied his men were involved. "They are free to publish the newspaper when they want,"

Israel has not officially granted the Palestinian police any jurisdiction outside the autonomous areas, but Colonel Rajub's men roam across the occupied West Bank regardless.

In Cairo, on Wednesday, Palestinians, looked into the Israeli economy for a quarter of a century, signed an agree-ment with Egypt to stimulate trade and give Palestinian goods access to world mar-

Egyptian Economy and Trade Minister Mohammad Mahmoud Qouriea, who holds the economy portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, headed their delegations at

the meeting.

According to the agreement, Egypt and the Palestinians agreed to preferential trade status for some goods.

It stipulated practical steps to facilitate trade between Egypt and the Palestinian authority, such as setting up a free zone for transit and easing border restrictions, certificate of origin procedures and the use of Egyptian ports and airports.

On the sidelines, representatives of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palesti Authority met for two days on integrating their econo-mies after Middle East peace and lifting restrictions to

trade between them. Also present at the meeting of REDWIG - the Regional Economic Development Working Group of the Middle East - were U.S. and European Union representatives.

"We were discussing the various measures that we could take in the area, first of all to promote and facilitate trade among ourselves and vis-a-vis access to the American market," Israeli representatives Dan Catarivas said at the end of the meeting.

The multilateral talks were also devoted to a plan of action to set up an information super highway, he added.

Under the Egyptian-Palestinian trade pact, both sides agreed to press Israel to lift restrictions it still imposes on the crossing points between Egypt and the Gaza Strip so as to facilitate the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty protests decapitations in S. Arabia

LONDON (AFP) - At Jeast 90 people have been decapitated in Saudi Arabia in the past three months, a record seen as an "alarming" increase in Islamic form of punishment, Amnesty International said Friday. The London-based rights group called on its members and supporters to write to Saudi royal family members and Saudi diplomatic missions "expressing grave concern about the alarming inrease in the number of executions in Saudi Arabia and calling for a halt to such executions. "Executions are carried out after trials in which internationally agreed safeguards for prisoners facing the death sentences are completely ignored." Most of the 90 executions cited between Jan. 20 and April 19 were for murder or drug crimes, it said. But one woman was decapitated for "sexual offences and chewing qat," a narcotic plant leaf.

1 dead in Istanbul carbomb blast

ISTANBUL (AFP) - One person was killed Friday when a bomb planted in an abandoned car in Istanbul went off as the vehicle was being towed into a police lot, Anatolia news agency said. The dead person was the driver of the tow-truck, the report said. There were conflicting reports on the car's initial location before police called in towers to remove the vehicle. Anatolia said it was badly parked in the Saltanahmet neighbourhood, a tourist district where Topkapi palace and the church of Saint Sophia are located. The district has been the target to attacks in recent years by the main Kurdish rebel group, the Kurdish Labour Party. But a centre-left paper, the daily Cumhuriyet, said the booby-trapped car had been parked only five metres outside the main entrance to its offices. Cumhuriyet said this was not in Sultanahmet square — as Anatolian reported — but two to three kilometres away.

Uganda expels 11 Sudanese diplomats

KAMPALA (AFP) - Uganda announced Friday that it had ordered 11 Sudanese diplomats to leave the country in order to cut Sudan's mission here to the same size as the Ugandan embassy in Khartoum. The move will reduce the number of Sudanese diplomats in Kampala to five, a foreign ministry statement said. Embassy First Secretary Hassan Mohammadan, military attache Lieutenant Col-onel Hayder Hadi and two other senior diplomats were given 48 hours to leave Uganda. The other diplomats were given up to two weeks to leave, the statement said. Last week Uganda expelled another Sudanese diplomat, Awad Mohammad Hussein, accusing him of engaging in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status. Sudan retaliated by expelling Geoffrey Kabushenge, an advisor at the Ugandan embassy in Khartoum. The two countries accuse each other of backing rebel groups in each other's territory.

Syrian foreign minister to visit Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa will visit Japan on Saturday and Sunday for talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, ministry officials said. Mr. Sharaa will stop by here on his way to Indonesia after attending the conference on reviewing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York. He will attend a meeting of non-aligned countries in Indonesia.

Sudan refuses to renew visas of missionaries

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's government has refused to renew the visa of a Roman Catholic priest who worked in the country for more than 40 years, forcing him to leave, church officials announced Friday. Father Ottorino Sina, 80, and a member of the Italian Comboni missionary order, was scheduled to leave Friday, a statement from the order in Rome said. He had worked in Sudan from 1947 to 1969 and again starting in 1976. Two other priests of the Comboni order, Father Calvisi Carmine and Father Cazzaniga Francesco, and an unnamed Indian priest of the Salesian order have been told to leave by next Wednesday, said the statement, faxed to the Associated Press. It said Father Sina had previously been granted a "special visa status" because he was director of the Comboni College in the Sudanese capital Khartoum. No reason was given for the expulsions.

Norway closing probe in Rushdie case

OSLO (R) - Norwegian police are closing their inquiry into the shooting of Salaman Rushdie's publisher after failing to find conclusive evidence of a link to Iran's death edict on the British author, police said on Friday. The decision to discontinue the investigation drew protests from the Norwegian publishers' association and publisher William Nygaard, who was shot three times from behind and wounded outside his Oslo home in October 1993. Iran has denied any involvement in the attack on Mr. Ngaard, head of Oslo publishers Aschehoug which issued Mr. Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses" in Norwegian. 'We are about to close the investigation," Oslo assistant police chief Sveinung Sponheim told Reuters. "We have not had any new leads since last autumn."

Egyptair ferries Libyans

(Continued from page 1)

Mecca on board Egyptian planes," Col. Qadhafi said. "We have never asked Arab countries to send commercial flights to Libya to allow them to discover for themselves that the (U.N. embargo) was aimed at destroying the Arab people, Col. Qadhafi added.

He pledged: "Whether they respect the embargo until judgement day, we will go every year by plane to Mec-

State Department officials in Washington said the United States would ask Saudi Arabia to explain why it allowed the plane to land at Jeddah and return to Tripoli on Thursday instead of impounding the aircraft.

Aziz, the deputy interior minister, did not respond directly to the criticism but said: "Saudi Arabia prevents no Muslim from going to Mecca to perform the rites.'

faithful on the pilgrimage on condition that they have entry visas and conform to the rules," he said in an interview. Privately, senior officials in

Riyadh said the government decided to separate politics and religious affairs after learning from the experience of hosting framian pilgrims who had held political rallies in Mecca.

The official Saudi Press Agency issued its customary warning to visitors on Thurstical activity during the annual pilgrimage known as the Haj.

But the Libyan flight was a religious matter, Saudi officials insisted.
"We don't ask every pil-grim how he got here," said one senior official.

Col. Qadhafi said Riyadh had acted "as it should" by welcoming the Libyan pil-

dian of Islam's holiest sites in Mecca and Medina, should be above political considerations and be like the Vatican, he added.

The Libyan leader also called on embargo-hit Iraq to follow his country's lead. "Iraqi pilgrims should im-mediately take the plane from Baghdad for Mecca without anything stopping them," he said.

Saudi Arabia, the custo-

Suspect held

(Continued from page 1)

Another spokesman for the group, Bernard Fulnyter, said he had no knowledge of a bomb attack by any members of the group. "We're not an offensive organisation or a terrorist organisation."

Federal agents armed with automatic weapons, helmets and shields were seen on television surrounding the house. The Michigan Militia has vowed to resist what it calls a

plot by the U.S. government and the United Nations to set up a police state in the United States. Sources said the suspect arrested in Oklahoma resembled a sketch of a crew-cut white man who was identified on Thursday as one of two suspects in the bombing. The source

said the man was arrested without resistance. Also sought were brothers named Terry Lynn Nichols and James Donglas Nichols.

Earl Hicks, city administrator in Perry, said law enforcement officials were securing the area around the Noble County courthouse, "which is where they'll be bringing him

Jordanian unit to be cut

(Continued from page 1)

ducing the U.N. troops to 5,000.

via and Croatia in accordance The mandate of the U.N. with U.N. Security Council peacekeepers is valid for a Resolution 791. According to specific period of time contin-Maj.-Gen. Radwan council gent on the approval of the host country. Resolution 981 calls for re-

interest that could be used to make explosives.

A spokesman for Alitalia airlines said Friday the man's luggage had been examined by U.S.

CONTRACT.

Steady improvement at **Amman Financial Market**

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices and turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) improved last week as the banking and industrial sectors saw hectic activity related to an increase in the capital of the banks and expectations that the international sanctions against Iraq could be lifted before the end of the year, brokers said Friday.

They said that in the banking sector major players in the market were adopting positions ahead of possible mergers of some commercial banks in order to meet a directive by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) that all Jordanian banks raise their capital of JD 20 million before the end of 1996.

In the industrials sector, the move by the U.N. Security Council to allow Iraq to export oil worth \$1 billion every three months was interpreted by the major players as a sign that the sanctions against the Kingdom's onetime largest trading partner could be removed altogether

by the end of the year. Some speculators also believed that Iraq, whose cabinet has turned down the U.N. offer, has not said its last word on the issue since

the Iraqi parliament is now shares were traded during the debating the limited oil sale week, 55 closed with gains. plan, brokers said.

The weekly report of the market said turnover rose by more than nine per cent to JD 21.5 million from the previous week's JD 19.7 mil-

The general share price index closed at 148.92 points, up 3.1 points or 2.1 per cent, from the week's opening of 145.8 points.

Industrial stock gained 3.4 per cent during the week, commercial banks 1.7 per cent, service sector shares 0.7 per cent and insurance companies 0.3 per cent, the separate sectoral indices showed.

The report said 7.5 million shares changed hands under 8.051 deals - an indication high-level individual activity in the marker.

Service sector shares, boosted by continued activities in transfer of ownership of the Jordan Inter.Continental Hotel, accounted for nearly half the weekly volume with JD 9.2 million. Commercial banks and financial institutions came second in sectoral trading

with a volume of JD 8.4 mil lion, followed by industrial stocks with 3.5 million dinars and insurance companies with JD 400,000.

Of the 84 companies whose

16 with losses and the rest

Brokers attributed the steady improvement in the performance of the market to signs that institutions were determined to play a key role against depression of prices.

In the banking sector, not-

able gains were made by the Bank of Jordan whose shares opened at JD 3.55 and closed at JD 3.85, the Housing Bank whose stock gained 580 fils during the week, the Jor-dan Islamic Bank (150 fils). the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (290 fils), Beit Al Mal Saving and Invest-ment for Housing (470 fils), and the Philadelphia Invest-

ment Bank (280 fils).

Brokers said several individual investors in the market hold shares in some of the smaller banks seen as heading for merger to raise their capital as directed by the Central Bank and they were consolidating their positions ahead of a possible decision on mergers. That accounted for the increase in prices as well as turnover in the bank-

ing sector, they said. In the services sector, the Irbid District Electricity Company gained 270 fils on news that the government

(Continued on page 9)

Foreign investment in developing countries down

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Private capital flows to developing countries, which took off in 1993, will be down for a second consecutive year in 1995 and has come to a virtual standstill in Latin America, according to a study released Thursday.

Foreign investment in the less developed countries is expected to total \$81.9 billion this year, less than half last year, according to the Institute for International Finance (IFI), a lobbying group for commercial banks.

The Asia-Pacific region is expected to attract no more than \$60 billion in foreign investment, compared to \$80.4 billion last year. Central and eastern Europe are expected to get \$10.3 billion, compared to \$12.7 billion in private investment last year.

Public financing for those areas will rise spectacularly, up 38 per cent this year compared to a nine per cent increase last year, according to IFI. The reversal reflects aid programme for Mexico and Russia.

To avert a repeat of debacles like the Mexican crisis last winter, the IFI called on the international community to Mobilise and put in place an early warning system.

the emphasis on reducing im-

Such a system would put

balances and strengthening developing economies while enabling governments, investors and multilateral organisations to anticipate and respond to new crises.

The IFI detailed its proposals in a letter to world finance ministers participating in the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank next week in Washington.

An early warning system must incorporate actions by all major participants and revolve around greater transparency and more disciplined approaches to maintaining sound policies."

It cails on the developing countries to establish monitoring arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), even when they have no loans from the organisation, and assuring greater transparency of their economic data.

The IFI also cautioned the developing countries against relying excessively on shortterm capital flows and urged them to encourage savings, strengthen their banking systems and avail themselves of international loans to strengthen their economic struc-

"The IMF needs to make crisis avoidance a clear priority and shape its policies accordingly," the IFI said.

Bonn, Tokyo pressure U.S. not to allow dollar to sink

FRANKFURT (AFP) Chancellor Helmut Kohl punched through diplomatic language to tell U.S. President Bill Clinton bluntly to put the U.S. economy in order in outspoken remarks four days before a Group of Seven (G-7) meeting on cur-

rency instability. Echoing an attack on U.S. budget policy by Japanese officials this week, and reflecting warnings by leading German industrialists that the rise of the mark could price German products out of world market, Mr. Kohl said that Mr. Clinton should not allow the dollar "to sink."

In exceptionally outspoken terms he said in an interview on German television late Thursday that U.S. fiscal and budgetary policies "are not acceptable" and that the United States had to control its budget deficit.

But his economy minister, Guenter Rexrodt, took a different line Friday saying that the strength of the mark should not be "over-dramatised" and that the benefits in containing the prices of imported goods should not be under-estimated.

Mr. Kohl heads the conservative CDU-CSU parties in coalition with the small, free-market Liberal Party to which Mr. Rexrodt belongs. Finance ministers and cen-

tral bankers from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries are to meet in Washington Tuesday and the severe fall of the dollar, particularly against the mark and yen, is expected to be at the centre of discussion.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, speaking Friday said that "each state contributes to the stability of its currency through its budgetary policy." "The Europeans must continue their policy of consolidation, Japan must open its markets, deregulate and strengthen domestic demand, the United States and Canada must reduce their de-

The dollar has fallen by 11 per cent against the mark so trialists, and particularly the heads of the Daimler-Benz group and of its subsidiary. the aero company DASA. have warned that the strength of the mark, particularly against the dollar, would have grave consequences for German manufacturing if it

persists. DASA said Wednesday that it would report a loss this year of at least 100 million marks (\$71.9 million) if the dollar did not settle at more than 1.60 marks.

Late Thursday the president of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, referring to the G-7 meeting, said that

By Glasbergen

there was "no instant solution" to instability on foreign exchange markets.

Countries with weak currencies had a duty to establish "credible and concrete solutions" to deal with their economic problems. This was particularly true of countries of which the currencies were used in a reserve role, Mr. Tietmeyer said in a reference to the dollar.

German authorities maintain that they that have done all in their power to restrain the fall of the dollar by reducing the German discount rate by half a point to 4.0 per cent on March 30.

Germans hold that the duty now lies with the United States to reduce its budget deficit, which is widely regarded as one of the main causes of the fall of the dollar, and with Japan to facilitate access to the Japanese market in order to reduce the Japanese trade surplus with the United States.

One analyst commented: 'There is not much that Germany can do.

The Bundesbank, which is always careful to stress that its management of monetary policy depends on strictly domestic factors, justified its decision to reduce the discount rate by pointing to a sharp slowing of the rate of growth of the M3 money

It also noted that the rise of the mark would help to contain inflation in Germany by bearing down on the price of imported goods and services.

The record reached by the dollar was 1.3450 on March In London Friday the dol-

lar was being traded at close

to 1,39 marks because dealers.

our strong stance on the present situation on the foreign exchange markets." he said. The form of the message still had to be worked out, he Foreign diplomats in Tokyo said Japan wants to

against any initiative which images to agreed by the Chronich in the Chronic in

In Tokyo, Japan, choked

kets, arguing that Tokyo has

and investors were buying

might be agreed by the G-7. Throughout January the dol-

lar had been traded at about

by the soaring yen, wants the

G-7 finance ministers at their

meeting in Washington on

Tuesday to send a strong signal to calm volatile mar-

already done everything it

Finance Minister

Masayoshi Takemura told

journalists Friday that he

hoped discussions would cen-

tre on "what the internation-

al community needs to do to

All the G-7 nations - Bri-

tain, Canada, France, Ger-

many, Italy, Japan and the

United States - agree that

existing exchange parties do

not reflect economic fun-

damentalists, a senior finance

send a message expressing

'The important thing is to

ministry official told AFP.

attain a strong dollar."

.55 marks.

avoid any direct confronta-tion with Washington and wants to transfrom the problem of the strong yen into one of a weak dollar, with major consequences for all G-7 countries.

After reducing its own discount rate last week, Japan feels it now has the right to expect Washington to do the opposite and increase its

Egypt holds down spending, lets budget deficit rise

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government, in its draft budget for the fiscal year 1995/6, has held spending increases down to below the rate of inflation but allowed the deficit to grow

slightly faster. The draft, which parliament started debating Monday, foresees a deficit of 5.297 billion pounds (\$1.56 billion), 15 per cent more than the 4.605 billion (\$1.35 billion) deficit in the current ernment had not relied on year. The fiscal year begins printing banknotes since on July 1.

at between 10 and 12 per cent, with government ministers saying the lower figure is closer to the real underlying rate.

The budget forecasts overall expenditure at 71.492 billion pounds (\$21.0 billion) 1995/6, 9.9 per cent up on 65.048 billion (\$19.1 billion) in the latest version of this

Revenues come to 66.196 billion pounds (\$19.5 billion), 9.5 per cent up on 60.443 billion (\$17.8 billion). But the government's wage

bill, a source of concern to international institutions like the IMF, is projected to rise 16 per cent to reach 15.721

billion pounds (\$4.62 billion). Food subsidies, however, one of the keys to preventing unrest among the urban poor, will remained unchanged at 2.08 billion pounds (\$600 million) — a

decline in real terms. The government finances the deficit largely from shortterm treasury bills and Finance Minister Mohammad El-Razaz told parliament earlier this month that the gov-

It has just invited subscriptions to a first tranche of five-year bonds worth three billion pounds (\$885 million), at a fixed interest rate of 12

As a proportion of the total budget, the deficit next year will be slightly higher than it was this year, at 7.4 per cent against 7.0 per cent.

U.S. grants \$200m to reno-

vate Egypt's electrics The United States has agreed to provide up to \$200 million in aid to Egypt to modernise its electricity network, the U.S. Agency for International Development

(USAID) said

USAID Director John Wesley and Egyptian Electricity Minister Mohammad Maher Abaza signed the agreement Sunday to provide up to \$50 million per year for the next four years, a member of the USAID power and telecommunications division,

John Hunt, told AFP. He added that Egyptian International Cooperation Minister Yussef Boutros-Ghali and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Edward Walker had first concluded the agreement monies were already being distributed.

The grant will be used to modernise the electrical control station at the High Dam as well as build two new control stations in the southern Egyptian province of Minya and near the northern town of Damanhur.

The money will also go to building a transmission substation at Wadi Natrun, 110 kilometres northwest of

Cairo, to support desert land reclamation, Mr. Hunt said. USAID will provide technical assistance to promote reform in electricity management, particularly in pricing.

Ministers from CFA zone hail post - devaluation growth

PARIS (R) - Finance ministers from the 14 African nations of the franc zone said in Paris Thursday they were optimistic about prospects for economic growth in the wake of last year's drastic devaluation of the CFA franc.

In a joint statement with French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery, who hosted the meeting with Paris's former African colonies. they said: "Just over a year" after the devaluation of the CFA and Comoros francs, the ministers drew an encouraging picture of the ecoand financial situation.'

Malian Finance Minister Soumaila Cisse told a news conference the gains were not just in terms of state finances and economic indicators but also on the ground, particularly in the countryside, whose produce could now

compete with imports. "There have been difficulties in the towns... but there has been a very positive effect on rural populations."

The CFA franc's value agaisnt the French franc was cut by half in January 1994 under pressure from the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) to break a 46-year-old fixed parity. The Comoros Islands' franc was devalued by a third.

After a period of stagna-tion and decline, with the economies of the zone shrinking on average by 0.8 per cent from 1990 to 1993, including as much as six per cent for Cameroon, overall growth returned last year, ministers said.

On average zone economies grew 1.5 per cent in 1994, Mr. Alphandery said, rising to three or four per cent this year and four or five per cent in 1996 — the sort of level seen in the highly dynamic economies of Asia. Ivory Coast's economy could grow by six per cent next year, he

France, which precipitated the currency shift by making its aid contingent on countries winning the backing of the devaluation-bent IMF, says it is pleased with the

"The devaluation now seems to be a success, an incontrovertible success." Mr. Alphandery told a news conference. "All the economic indicators show that."

GLASBERGEN'

THE BETTER HALF,

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 22, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day today to talk with ly ties and hi that everyone can be happy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Today is good for making as many visits as you can and get the right results. Friends can provide very

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to become more affluent today and pay your financial obligations more promptly so that your

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day today to make plans for later tonight, but avoid any tense situations outdoors. Later be with good friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take time to go over your plans today and make sure they are correct so that you can gain your aims wisely VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you apply your best effor oday, you can gain personal and intimate longings very quickly. spend wisely not extravagantly.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contact the most powerful bigwig you know and state your capabilities and gain the support you eed and want. Be yourself.

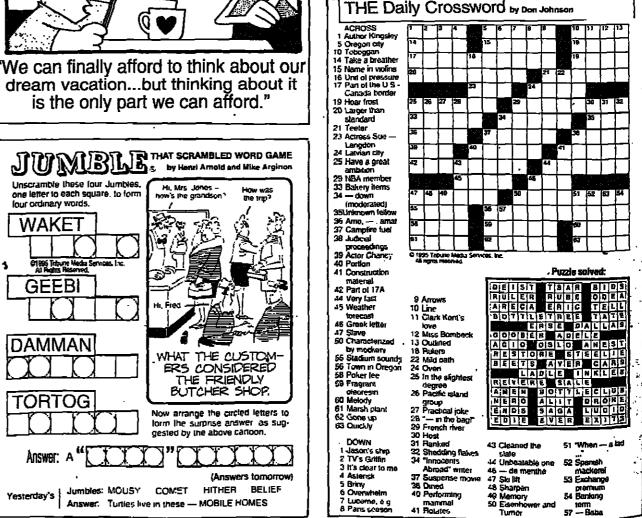
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go ahead and plan th trip which could easily help you to expand in business today, but

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into the privacy of your study and think over how best to improve your business dealing for later tonight. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Realise that your fellow associates are not as business like and unemotional as you and

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have many duties ahead of you today, but if you schedule them well, you need not feel

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early this morning get in touch with good friends and set up appointments for entertainments and recreational activities for later tonight.

Birthstone of April: Diamond - Amethyst



the Markey Sauce

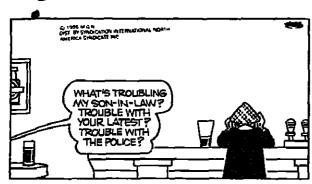
Peanuts







Andy Capp







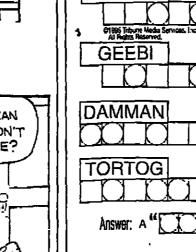
Mutt'n'Jeff

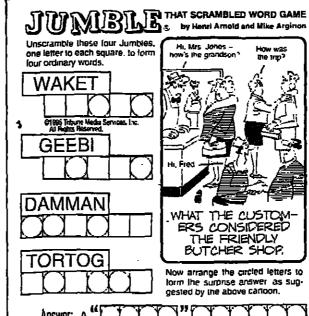












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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

against any initially eigh their ar had been baded at **Farmers** musting in lokyo, lapan di cole. Mr G-7 finance ministrati meeting in Washington Tuesday to send et al. complain of low Main. Mgnai to calm volume. main. Menti to com votate acts, arguing that Tolerand done creme. produce prices Finance Mini Massyosh Takema Gurnalists Enday to

JORDAN VALLEY farmers plan to stage a sit-in in front of the Farmers' Federation Office in Deir Alla next week unless the government addresses the problem of produce prices within a week. Farmers are protesting the noticeable decline in prices of agricultural products, espe-cially tomatoes, which fell to between 250 and 500 fils per carton weighing around eight kilogrammes. The tarmers are demanding that the Arda plant for processing tomato paste be opened to receive excess supplies at JD 60 per tonne like previous years. They are also requesting that official and public delegations be sent to Arab countries to encourage them to buy Jordanian produce and to facilitate the flow of exports (Al Ra'i + Al Dus-

** THE COUNCIL of Ministers approved supplying electricity, under the "rural fils project," to any area with a minimum of ten houses. Under a previous regulation, the minimum number of houses had to be 20 (Al

** THE JORDAN Portfolio Securities Company held a total of JD 9.68 million of shares at market value at the end of last year. The company traded shares valued at JD 9.32 million for its own account last year and managed to make a JD. 268,151 profit in this regard. Acting as a broker, the company carned JD 139,327 in commission from trading a volume of JD 27.2 million on behalf of its clients. The com pany's shareholders' equity stood at JD 9,664,000 at the end of 1994, after raising the capital to JD 5 million in June last year, while total assets unted to JD 11.38 million (Al Aswaq). A follow up by the Jordan Times revealed that the company posted a net loss of JD 726,000 in 1994 after recording a JD 610,000 net profit in 1993.

** SHORTAGES of raw materials have forced the closure of some steel plants and, consequently led to higher prices of imported steel in the local market. Traders say that prices of raw materials in Russia are so high that some merchants started importing manufactured steel. Owners of steel plants complain that suppliers are no longer ering to contracts signed with them. A trader says that steel cannot be imported directly from Russia because there is an agent distributor in Lebanon. He points out that a tonne of Russian steel now sells for JD 325 when the price should be between JD. 280-JD 290 per tonne (Al Aswaq).

** THE JORDAN New Cable Company (INCC) re-corded 1.29 million of sales last year. Local sales inted for 76 per cent (JD 981,319) while exports totalled JD 309,175. After taking operational costs and other expenses into consideration, JNCC posted a JD 165,925 net profit. The company's total assets amounted to JD 8.11 million at the end of last year (Al Ra'i).

** THE UNITED Engineering Industries Corporation earned a total ID 3.1 million in 1994 but after deducting operational costs and other expenses the corporation ended last year with a net profit of JD 210,400. The corporation, capitalised at JD million, owns the Rum Material Manufacturing Company (RMMC) and the Rum Die and Equipment Manufacturing Company. RMMC's total sales amounted to JD 2.61 million. 23.7 per cent above the 1993 figure, with exports going to Lebanon, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Maghreb countries (Al Aswaq).

Steady improvement at Amman **Financial** Market

(Continued from page 8) would allow a free-market approach to electricity generation, and the Jordan National Shipping Lines gathered 300 fils after announcing year-end figures In industrials, where hopes

of an end to the sanctions against Iraq are translated into increased Jordanian exports to Iraq, the weekly performance was largely mixed, but high optimism was visible that local firms would see increased activity vis-a-vis Iraq next year, brok-"Major players decided

that it was better to adopt positions right now rather than wait for December, which they see as a logical deadline for and to the sanctions," said a broker, who, like other AFM dealers, can-not be identified by name under standing regulations.

"Furthermore, there are some investors who simply refuse to accept that Baghdad has issued its last word on the oil plan," added the broker. "They cite the continuing debate of the plan by the Iraqi parliament as a sign that Baghdad has kept the door open to accept the U.N. plan after modifications."

After announcing better annual results for 1994, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company gained 290 fils and the Arab Potash Company (new issue) gathered 900 fils last week.

Other notable gains in industrials were made by the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (190 fils), the In-termediate Petrochemicals (620 fils), the National Cable and Wire Manufacturing (250 fils), and Jordan Sulpho Chemicals (210 fils).

LODAN FINANCIAL MARKET Bousing Bank Center Algun — Sentisani

TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170

	ORGANIZ	ed harket		ACTIVITY P WEEKLY
COMPANY'S MANS	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	opening Price	
ARAB BAHK PIC	429,226	101 750		
JORDAN MATIONAL BANK		4.890		
JORDAM NATIONAL BANK / KEW		4.750		
BANK OF JORDAN				3.850
MIDDLE PAST INVESTMENT BANK.		1.600		
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK		2.780		
THE HOUSING BANK	1,975,376			
JORDAN KUWALT BANK		2.920		
JORDAM GULF BANK		1.370		
arab Jordan investment bank		3.500		
JORDAN ISLANIC BANK	1,180,608			
DRICH BANK FOR SAVING 4 INVESTMENT		4.800		
Business hame		3.520		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & PINANCE BANK	39.633			4.360
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGLIEVESTMENT FOR ROUSING		3.100		
Annah bakk for investment		1.230		
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN		4.000		
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	2,678,991			
BAHKS SECTOR	لمبارئ ميون فيهيها	-		
		8417013 CHAMGE		TIMBER: 169.0 :1.65%
_				
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	27,469	1.850	1.850	1.950
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	334,702	2.790	2.790	2.830
"YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE		3.100		
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE THE MATIONAL ANLIA INSURANCE		2.600		
DELTA INSURANCE		3.100		
	23,430	2-400	2.400	_
INSURANCE SECTOR		CHANGE		UMBER: 136.6 0.297
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	•	1.650		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / EEW	•	1.550		
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	6,205,463			
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY		1.040		
JORDAN HIMER MINERAL .	1,697	2.750	2.750	2.610
ARAS INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	109,552	7.150	7.150	6.950
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS /NEW . 1.	2,662	7.000	7.000	7.050
JORDAN WATICKAL SHIPPING LINES	296,046	2.960	2.960-	3.260
-MATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	75,234	2.260	2.260	2.420 -
RZAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	3,582	1.100	1.100	1.150
NACHIBARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE		0.660		
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA-I		10.250		10.150
ONITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	534,389	2.730	2.730	2.700
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	49,192	3.350	3.350	3.350
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT SOLDING	3,139	1.250	1.250	1.280
SERVICES SECTOR		7656242 CRANGE		MBER: 141.99
ATTAMORED CONST. HATERIAL HABUTACTURING				
THE JORDAN CEMENT PACTORIES	6,521		1.120	1.210
JORDAN PROSPENTE NIMES	340,851	•	3.080 .	
	55,253	2.550	2.550	2.840

GRAND TOTAL	:	L9305961	INDEX	MUMBER:	148.9
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR		2828855 CHARGE		Number: +3,392	124.9
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	53,992			2.040	
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	76,187		3.460		
KANTHER INVESTMENT	•	1.580			
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. 4 CREMICALS	. 63,159		2.280		
5 Jordan Sulpho-Chemicals	45,461		1.610		
MATIONAL CABLE & WIRE NAMUFACTURING	41,975		4.700		
JORDAN MOOD INDUSTRIES / JWICO	4,815		5.600		
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	9,641		0.670		
ALADDIM INDUSTRIES	5,290		4.350		
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,921	4.200	4.200	4.200	
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	17,912	1.190	1.190	1.200	
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	335,751	2.530	2.530	3.150	
RATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	10,223	3.100	3.100	3.200	
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	464,703	1.570	1.570	1.600	
GENERAL INVESTMENT	7,700	3.100	3.100	3.100	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	145,014	0.670	0.670	0.700	
ARAB ALUKINIUM IMDUSTRY	56,497	7.250	7.250	7.200	
ARAB INVESTMENT & INERHATIONAL TRADE	239,591		0.930		
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	138,528	7.950	7.950		
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	25,475				
SPINETING & WEAVING	102,568		_		
THE PUBLIC MINING	. 2,198				
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUPACTURING	11,291				
Jordan Printing & Packing	1,920				
JORDAN DAIRY	4,625				
arab prabhaceutical manufacturing	330,329				
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	19,550				
THE INDUSTRIAL CONNERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	10,122				
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	1,335		1.780	•	
REPORT		. 700	1 700	1.780	
OR THE PERIOD (15/04/1995 - 19/04/1995)					

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (15/04/1995 - 19/04/1995) WEEKLY REPORT

مدرسی با از از					1
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING	. 1
-	VOLUME	CLOSING	PRICE	PRICE	Ž
•	JD	PRICE	•		
ورين المديد والروادة والمديد الأنهاج والمديد الأناء والمديد الأناء			Assessed		
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	22,463	0.910	0.910	0.680	
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	190,534	8.770	0.770	0.850	
LARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	19,465	1.390	1.390	1.390	
Unified co. For organizing land trans.	569,978	2.240	2.240	2.400	
ARAB FIN INV.CO	776,454	1.130	1.130	1.220	
ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	5,421	1.020	1.020	1.020	
MATIONAL CHLORING INDUSTRIES CO.LTD	117,815	1.650	1.650	1.740	
MATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO	28,491	1.080	1.080	1.120	
Jordan nen Cable Company	47,305	1.730	1.730	1.760	
RL-EAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	* 68,294	2.260	2.260	2.330	
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	331,740	1.560	1.560	1.660	
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGATIABLE OIL INDUSTRI	3,922	2.500	2.500	2.530	
JORDAN STEEL	25,247	0.990	0.990	0.990	
ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	2,016	0.910	0.910	0.900	
GRAND TOTAL		2209255			

Financial Markets

Cairo Amman Bank



THE ARAB POTASH/HEW

JORDAN PETROLEUN REFINARY

J.S. Dollar in International I	Markets	₹*
Ситтепсу	New york Close Dain 19/4/95	Tokyo Close Daix 20/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.6070	1.6080**
Deutsche Mark	1,3715	1.3694
Swiss Franc	1,1335	1.1310**
French Franc	4.8615	4.8550**
Japanese Yeu	87.28	81.57
European Curreny Unit	1.3305	7.3345**
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* USD Per STG		_
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Сигтелсу	I MTH	1 LiTUS	6 MTHS	12 MTH
		3 1411113	9 W103	12 MIR
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.93	6.12	6.31
Sterling Fhund	6.00	6.31	6.75	7.25
Deutsche Mark	4.37	4.37	4.43	4.68
Swiss Franc ·	3.25	3.25	3.31	3.43
French Franc	7.75	7.68	7.37	7.00
Japanese Yen ·	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
European Currency Unit	6.25	6.38	6.43	6.62

	. Date: 20/4/19		
Сигтепсу	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6860	
Sterling Pound	1.0988	1.1043	
Destsche Mark	0.4982	0.5007	
Swiss Franc	0.6037	0.6067	
French Franc	0.1405	0.1412	
Japanese Yen*	0.8381	0.8425	
Dutch Guilder	0.4450	0.4472	
Swedish Krona	******	4047449	
lialian Lira* .	0.0395	0.0397	
Belgian Franc	*****	***444	

Other Currencies	Dag	Dute: 20/4/199		
Carrency	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.7920	1.8150		
Lebanese Lira*	0.04115	0.04274		
Sandi Riyal	0.1821	0.1835		
Kewaiti Dinar	2.3180	2,3610		
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1879		
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2080		
Omani Riyai	1.7680	7.7800		
UAE Dirham	Ø.1857	0.1866		
Greek Dractuma*	· 0.3010	0.3350		
Cypriot Pound '	1.4525	1.5530		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and

onmon markets	гпоау.
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3668/78
	1.3856/66
	1.5514/24
	1.1452/62
	28.49/53
	4.8850/00
	1728.8/3.8
,	83.45/55
	7.4350/50

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

5.4435/85 One sterling \$1.6008/18 One ounce of gold \$389.85/390.25

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European Cup Winners Cup

Arsenal win on penalties to meet Real Zaragoza in final

LONDON (AP) — David man but he stuck out his arm Seaman made three saves in a and palmed it away. penalty shootout as defending champion Arsenal made it to the European Cup Winners Cup final again Thurs-day despite a 3-2 loss to Sampdoria.

The Gunners will meet Real Zaragoza in the final in Paris May 10, the Spanish team advancing 4-3 on aggregate despite losing 3-1 to Chelsea in the other semifinal

in London. With Sampdoria and Arsenal level on aggregate at 5-5 after extra time, the place in the final depended on penalties.

Although Ricardo Maspero and Mereno Mannini beat the England goalkeeper from the spot, he saved from Sinisa Mihailovic, Vladimir Jugovic and Attilio Lombardo.

Lombardo's kick, the final one of the shootout, appeared to have beaten Sea-

advances to

HONG KONG (Agencies)

Top seed and defending

champion Michael Chang

beat German qualifier Alex Radulescu 5-7, 6-3, 6-1

Thursday and advanced to

the quarterfinals of the Hong

It was the first time Chang had dropped a set in Hong

He was joined in the quar-

terfinals by third seed and

fellow American Jim

Courier, last week's Japan

Open winner, who defeated

American Jonathan Stark 7-Chang said he knew little about the Romanian-born

Radulescu before the match, and that may have affected him in the first set, when he

lost serve in the 11th game.

take me a whole set to figure out the style of my oppo-nent," said Chang, who is

ranked eighth in the world.

meets Denmark's Kenneth

seeded Dutchman Jan

Siemerink 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7-4).

of the Czech Republic also

lost, bowing 6-7 (1-7), 6-3, 6-3 to Sweden's Jan Apell.

the first set but came through

by doggedly holding serve

and winning the big points

with Jon before and have also

practiced with him. I can

certainly play better than I did in the first set, but I.

improved as the match went

finals was the sixth seed, Rus-

sian Alexander Volkov, who

beat American wild card En-

try Tommy Ho 5-7, 7-5, 6-4.

Medvedev in quarterfinals

again

Ukraine gained his fifth quar-

terfinals of 1995 by beating

Javier Sanchez of Spain, 6-0,

6-3, Thursday at the Nice

Open.

Andrei Medvedev of

Also reaching the quarter-

on," Courier said.

'I have played doubles

against stark.

Courier also struggled in

Eighth seed Martin Damm

In the quarterfinals, Chang,

"But really, it should not

Chang

quarters

Kong Salem Open.

Kong since 1993.

and palmed it away.

Sampdoria 'keeper Walter Zenga saved from Paul Merson and Eddie McGoldrick shot too high. But Arsenal's Lee Dixon, John Hartson and captain Tony Adams scored from the spot.

Coincidentally the shoot-out scoreline was 3-2, the same as each leg of the semi-

Roberto Mancini gave Sampdoria a 13th minute lead only for Ian Wright to level in the 60th with his ninth goal in eight Cup Winners games this season to restore Arsenal's overall

Claudio Belluci as substitute and he responded with two goals in the 83rd and 85th minute to give Sampdorla the dge. But Swedish World Cup

The Italian club sent on

player fired a 30-yard free kick home two minutes from

Cedric Pioline

Now he hopes to get into a

After blanking Sanchez in

the first set, Medvedev drop-

ped behind 3-2 in the second

before winning four consecu-

after rising as high as fourth

in 1994, Medvedev is looking

to rebound after injuries

with my injuries," Medvedev said. "I feel refreshed. I

didn't play for a long time

and now my confidence is

Australian Richard From-

berg beat Spain's Alex Cor-

retja, 6-4, 6-3 in his second-

round match, and fifth-seeded Marc Rosset of

Switzerland eliminated

another Spaniard, Roberto

In the final match of the

The quarterfinals are Med-

day Mark Woodforde of Au-

stralia ousted France's Henri

Carretero, 6-4, 6-3.

Leconte, 6-2, 7-5.

coming back.

"I've rested long enough

slowed him late last year.

Ranked 16th in the world

semifinal after losing at the

quarterfinal stage in all his

previous tournaments this

the end of regulation time for 3-2 to push the game into

In London, Paul Furlong scored a bizarre goal to give Chelsea the lead after 30 minutes. An attempted clearance by Real Zaragoza goalkeeper Juan Miguel Garcia struck Furlong and the ball flew past the startled Garcia into the net.

Zaragoza tied the game in the 54th minute with a sparkling run past several Chelsea defenders. But Frank Sinclair made it 2-1 for the Londoners in the 62nd and the third, from Mark Stein, was two minutes from the end.

Player-manager Glenn Hoddle, Stein and Gavin Peacock all had shots blocked before Hoddle's second attempt was deflected over the bar as Chelsea went close several more times.

advance 4-3 overall . and Parma downed Bayer Lever-The more prestigious kusen 3-0 to score a 5-1 Champions Cup final will be aggregate victory. between five-time winner AC

Milan and three-time titlist

Ajax of Amsterdam in Vien-

na May 24 and two more

Italian clubs, Juventus and

Parma, will contest the two-

leg UEFA Cup final May 3

Milan gained the Cham-pions Cup final by downing Paris Saint German 2-0

Wednesday to complete a 3-0

aggregate triumph over the two legs while Ajax romped to a 5-2 victory over Bayern Munich after a goal-less first

Juventus, which leads the

Italian League standings by 11 points, and Parma both eliminated German clubs in

the UEFA Cup semifinals.

Juventus scored a 2-1 vic-

tory at Borussia Dortmund to

tine and Spadea have yet to

lose a set this week. This will

be Frana's first semifinal of

and better every day, and today I played great," Frana

said. "It was a very high level

in the first set, and after the

first set I think it was tough

for him to win the next two

States downed Michael Teb-

butt of Australia 7-6 (7-1),

1-6. 6-3. In the semis, he

meets Hadad, a Colombian

who beat Jamie Morgan of

clash in Fed Cup

Australia's Rachel McQuillan has drawn Slovak

Republic's Karina Habsudo-

va, and the home country's

Nicole Bradtke meets Radka

Zrubakova on the opening

day of their Fed Cup tie here

The reverse singles and

doubles of this group one

match will be played Sunday.

advantage, Australia are

favoured to win the tie.

Because of their home

But Habsudova, Slovakia's

number one player, has pre-

Saturday.

Australia 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

McQuillan, Habsudova

Shelton of the United

"I've been playing better

the year.

and 17.

Wihdat, Jazireh advance to final

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Wilhdat Friday clinched a place in the final of the Amman Soccer Tournament when they overcame Russeifa 4-2 in a penalty shootout. The match ended in a 1-1 draw with both goals scored in the first half. Al Russeifa took the lead in the final minute of the first half, but a defensive error gave Al Wibdat their equaliser a few

seconds later.

Al Wihdat will now meet Al Jazireh in the final match. Al Jazireh had eliminated Al Faisali 4-1 in the other semifinal Thursday.

Eight Premier League eams from the capital and its vicinity took part in the competition organised by the Municipality of Greater

dicted a tough fight

rent surface.

new," she said.

Helena Sukova.

She conceded Friday she

and Zrubakova were not as

accustomed as the Austra-

said she believed the pair

would adapt well to the diffe-

"After all, we play at

Wimbledon every year, so it

is not as we will have to cope

with something completely

wins over 1994 Wimbledon

champion Conchita Martinez

and this year's Australian

Open winner, Mary Pierce. Zrubakova, 24, has beaten

many top players, including

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario,

Jana Novotna, Mary Joe Fernandez, Judith Wiesner,

Magdalena Maleeva and

Previously known as the Federation Cup, the women's

tournament has undergone a

name abbreviation and the

system has changed. The for-

mat is now similar to that of

the Davis Cup - the men's

was played at one venue over

a week the revamped com-

petition is being played over

a year in different locations.

While the Federation Cup

equivalent competition.

Habsudova, 21, has career

Spurs clinch best record in NBA

DALLAS (R) — David Robinson's San Antonio Spurs clinched the best record in the NBA on Thursday, but it wasn't easy.

Sean Elliott hit a pair of free throws with a halfsecond left after a controversial foul call and Robinson had 36 points and 13 rebounds as the Spurs secured homecourt advantage throughout the postseason with a 112-111 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

"I am proud of the Spurs, said San Antonio ceach Bob Hill. "This guarantees us the best record in the league. Now the real season begins."

Elliott went up for a shot and it appeared that Jamal Mashburn stripped him cleanly. The clock expired, the buzzer went off and the Mavericks began to celebrate before the foul was called. Elliott made both foul shots and the Mavericks could not get another shot off.

'You can't miss those when that much is on the line," said Elliott. "It was one of our goals to have the best record in the NBA and win the Midwest Division. We have a bigger goal, though — to continue to build on what we have done

This year I have learned to expect anything," said Dallas coach Dick Motta. "We hung in there and got the lead. We missed two nice layups that could have clinched it when we were up six, but still it comes down to a referee's call.'

Robinson was 17-of-24 in 44 minutes. "You can't stop David,

you just have to contain him," said Kidd. Jason Kidd notched his

fourth triple-double with 13 assists, a season-high 12 rebounds and 10 points for Dallas. Jamal Mashburn added 22 points. Avery Johnson had 22

points and 11 assists for the Spurs, who are 19-2 in their last 21 games.

Spurs forward Dennis Rodman played only nine mi-nutes and had four rebounds

while repeatedly refusing to go into the game during the first half. Rodman had his sneakers off during parts of the game while on the bench. In Seattle, Gary Payton

scored 25 points and the Sonics used a 19-3 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to defeat the Houston Rockets 114-97 and move into a tie with the idle Phoenix Suns atop the Pacific Division.

Seattle turned a five-point deficit into a 13-point lead with the run.

Detlef Schrempf added 21 points and Sam Perkins 18 for Seattle, which has won 13 of its last 16 games. Hakeem Olajuwon scored

26 points for struggling Houston, which has lost back-toback games and remains a game behind the Lakers for the fifth playoff slot in the

In Charlotte, the New York Knicks erased a 12point fourth-quarter deficit for a sloppy but gutsy 91-86 victory over the Hornets that clinched the second-best record in the Eastern Confer-John Starks scored 18

points and Charles Smith and Anthony Mason chipped in 15 apiece to lead the Knicks, who played much of the game without starters Patrick Ewing and Derek Harper, who both suffered minor injuries. New York, which snapped a two-game slide, has won

nine of its last 12 games overall. Alonzo Mourning had 22 points and 10 rebounds and

Larry Johnson had 18 points for Charlotte. The loss enabled Indiana

to clinch the Central Division Charlotte played without

New York

San Anto

starting point guard Muggsy Bogues for the second straight game (strained left

hamstring). The Hornets led 76-64 with 8:57 left but the Knicks took a one-point lead with a 15-2

burst over the next 4:43.

In Portland, Rod Strick-land scored 19 points and handed out 12 assists as the Trail Blazers clinched the seventh playoff spot in the Western Conference with a 111-97 rout of the Los

Angeles Lakers. Otis Thorpe also scored 19 points and Clifford Robinson added 18 for Portland, which placed seven players in dou-

ole figures. Cedric Ceballos scored 25 of his 36 points in the second half for the Lakers.

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen had 20 points and nine ass as the Bulls won their fifth straight, 120-105 over the Detroit Pistons.

Michael Jordan finished with 17 points, eight re-bounds and seven assists but shot 8-of-18 from the floor. Jordan has yet to shoot better than 50 per cent from the floor in any game at the United Centre. However, Chicago improved to 12-3 since his return.

Terry Mills led Detroit with 26 points and Grant Hill added 20 and 15 rebounds. At Golden State, Mitch

Richmond scored 30 points as the Sacramento Kings cruised to a 112-98 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Sacramento moved within a game of idle Denver for the Western Conference's final

playoff spot.
David Wood led Golden State with 18 points and Clifford Rozier added 15 points

RESULTS

	91	Charlotte	86
	129	Detroit	185
	112	Delles	111
	111	LA Lakers	97
	111	Houston	101
•	112	Golden State	98

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Dynamo Dresden bankrupt

DRESDEN (AFP) — Bottom club Dynamo Dresden is on the verge of bankruptcy and threatened with relegation from Germany's top division. Dresden's financial commission hamstring in the FA Cup semi-final replay win meets on Tuesday to decide whether to grant over Crystal Palace. Hartson, who made his the team money to pay for the required debut in last month's 3-1 defeat in Bulgaria, football licence from the German federation. reverted to the under-21 squad with the return If the commission decide not to lend the money, Dresden are unlikely to be able to afford the licence. Without the licene, Dresden will be automatically relegated.

Brazilian Indians to hold Olympics

BRASILIA (AP) - Pele, secretary of sports Edson Arantes Do Nascimento, announced Thursday that six Indian tribes will take part in Brazil's first indigenous Olympic games next week. The games begin in Campo Grande, capital of the jungle state of Mato Grosso Do Sul, where 300 members of the Guarani, Guatos, Cainas, Terenas, Ofaies and Kadiweus tribes will compete in a series of events. The three-day "Indian Olympics" include "native" competitions in archery, a river outside the western city of 525,000 years. people. Tribesmen also will compete in other more "traditional" sports such as soccer, Hoddle ready to quit volleyball and the long jump, he said.

Celtics' Douglas fined \$4,000

NEW YORK (R) — Point guard Sherman Douglas of the Boston Celtics was fined \$4,000 for his actions after Monday's game manager sent himself on to help create three between the Celtics and the New Jersey Nets comeback goals his club needed against Real in Boston, the National Basketball Associa- Zaragoza in their European Cup Winners' tion said Thursday. Douglas was fined for failing to leave the court in a timely fashion and verbally abusing the referees following Boston's 98-96 defeat of New Jersey.

Giggs out of Welsh squad

CARDIFF (AFP) — Manchester United and Wales star Ryan Giggs was forced to concede smith, already resigned to not qualifying for win.

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worst performances witnessed by Welsh fans, has replaced him with Arsenal's young striker John Hartson. Giggs has played in only one of Wales's last four matches after damaging a after injury and suspension respectively of Ian Rush and Mark Hughes.

the finals in English next year some of the

Bukhanov bids for repeat victory

BELGRADE (R) — Three of the top four men from last year's record-breaking Belgrade marathon return on Saturday to compete in the best field in the race's eight-year history. Title holder Vladimir Bukhanov of Ukraine, who took two and a half minutes off the previous record with a winning two hours 12 minutes 27 seconds, is back with the duo who finished second and third - Alexi Kuznetsov of Russia and Zimbabwean Cephas Matafi. Despite proximity to the Bosnia-Herzogovina war zone, a vastlyimproved entry has been helped by the lifting fishing, swimming and other aquatic games in of the Belgrade airport blockade after two

LONDON (AFP) — Glenn Hoddle came close to conjuring European miracle for his English Premiership side Chelsea Thursday night — then announced his impending retirement as a player. The 37-year-old player-Cup semi-final. But a goal from Santiago Aragon raised the target to five and put the Spaniards through to a Paris final meeting with Arsenal. Hoddle, capped 4 times for England and a star with Tottenham and Monaco, came on after 61 minutes and created a goal for Frank Sinclair within a minute. He then set up Mark Stein's late third defeat to his hamstring injury on Friday and insisting he is about to retire. "Til be hanging pull out of the Welsh European Champul out of the Welsh European Champul out of the Season so it was the goal but despite his obvious enduring class, pionship trip to Germany. Welsh boss Mike nice to get on," he said after his team's 3-1

Oklahoma bombing grim reminder for Atlanta that it can happen there

vedev-Fromberg; top-seeded

Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Rus-

sia against Cedric Pioline of

France; Rosset versus Wood-

forde, and Alberto Costa

against Tomas Carbonell in a

Shelton, Frana win

In Paget, Bermuda, Vince

Spadea, the only seed left in

Braasch of Germany 6-2, 6-4

to advance to the semifinals

of the \$303,000 Bermuda

matches on the clay courts

were Javier Frana, Bryan

Shelton and Mauricio Hadad.

from the United States, reco-

vered after trailing by a break

in each set. He next plays

Frana in his second semifinal

of the year.
"I told myself to stick with

it and keep positive," Spadea

Frana beat No. 2 seed

said. "I was able to keep my

Jason Stoltenberg of Austra-

lia 7-6 (7-5), 6-1. The Argen-

level pretty good."

Spadea, the No. 5 seed

Also winning quarterfinals

battle of Spaniards.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON (AFP) -The Olympic security training exercise was makebelieve, but the officers involved had only to look to Oklahoma City is see what the real thing might look

About 100 officers worked on a simulated car bombing and hostage incident at the 1996 Olympic equestrian center on Wednesday, the same day that a carbomb killed at least 36 people and injured hundreds more in the Oklahoma state capital.

"What we kept emphasizing to the people who are doing this now is: Play it for real. Because one day it may be," said David W. Johnson, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Atlanta office.

Personnel from the FBI's Special Weapons and Tactics department took part.

along with local law enforcement officers, working out of a mobile command center equipped with secure communications and satellite links which will be taken to Atlanta for the 1996 Games.

Johnson said at least two more exercises were planned before the Games July 19-August 4 of next year.

"We don't want anything to happen here," he said. "Hopefully, intelligence and hard work will ensure that it doesn't happen here.'

Atlanta organisers were tight-lipped regarding the Oklahoma bombing. though they acknowledged they were monitoring developments in one of the deadliest terrorist attack in US history.

"Don't draw a relationship between the bombing in Oklahoma City to Olympic Games, because none exists. Don't get these two mixed up, said Lyn May, a spokeswoman for the centennial Olympic Games' organis-

But do not doubt security officials here will want to know everything they can about what happened in Oklahoma City.

"We will, of course, request all available information relating to this explosion, study it and consider ways to improve our security if necessary," the, Atlanta Committee for the

U.S. heartland, but Olympic officials have been aware of the dangers ever since the 1972 Munich

Olympic Games said in a prepared statement. Ordinary Americans were stunned that such an attack could occur in the

Glympic massacre. Seventeen people, including 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team, were killed on September 5, 1972, in a 23-hour hostage crisis that started when Arab terrorists broke into the Israeli dormitory at the Olympic Village.

Since then, athlete safety has been a top priority at all Olympics.

In Atlanta, access to training centers, athlete dormitories and competition venues will be controlled with a radio frequency identification system that will read information encoded on accreditation badges.

Security officials will be able to use the system to track the movements of any person wearing an Olympic credential

As well as the nowstandard metal detectors, Atlanta security officials will use palm scanners to screen people entering some Olympic venues.

But people who live and work near the still-underconstruction Olympic Stadium look to the horror of Oklahoma City and fear they will be the next terrorist targets in 1996. "There's evil all over the

world. You're not safe anywhere anymore," said Barbara Crawford, who moved to Atlanta four days ago from Oklahoma City. "It's very frightening.

We really are targets, Atlanta resident Annella Clark said. "This is a wake-up call

WEST ◆AQ10975€J843 ♥5 ♥K103 ♥J982 for Atlanta," said Josette Scott, who works at a clothing store a few blocks from the construction site where Olympic Stadium is taking shape. The blast in Oklahoma The bidding:
West North East \$2 \(\frac{1}{2} \) Pass 4 \(\frac{1}{2} \) Pass Pass Opening lead: Ten of \(\frac{1}{2} \) City heightens the tension

for everyone, but especially in a place where the attennon of the world will be

GOREN BRIDGE

with omar sharif A Tannah Hirsch

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD lead. South's technique on this hand

North-South vulnerable. West was exemplary.

East took advantage of the vulnerability to boost partner's weak two-space opening bid to four spades, making it as difficult as posspades, making it as difficult as pos-sible for the opponents to enter the auction. But South was too strong to be shut out and North, realizing South was bidding under extreme pressure, took no action.

Most declarers would be happy that the contract depended only on one of two finesses and took no fur-ther. Since both minor-suit finesses

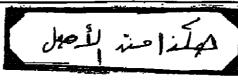
are due to fail, that would result in a one-trick set, with declarer losing two diamonds and a club as long as East did not play the two of dia-monds when that suit is first led from dummy. Can you spot the line that offered a better than 75 percent

ect low from dummy on المحروم ساسات

the opening lead, then allowed the tan to hold! The club continuation was taken in dummy, a spade was ruffed and declarer crossed to the board with the queen of trumps, in the process drawing both enemy

1.5

Another spade was trumped, the ace of clube was cleared to prepare the end position and the table was re-entered with the ten of trumps. When the king of spades was led and East did not produce the ace, declarar's hard work was rewarded. In stead of ruffing. South discarded a diamond loser from hand. In with the ace of spades, West had the choice of returning a black card, allowing declarer to ruff in dammy while sluffing the queen of diamonds from hand, or a diamond into declarer's major tenace. Hither way, declarer lost only a club trick and a spade!



PES, SATURDAY, APRIL 12 POPTS record in NB/

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RIEF

Houston

ANA WON 12 games

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State with 18 points

floor in

straight, 120-10 with 17 point United Cente. added in and I Golden State W David Wood by 6

State with 18 points umber 45 is NBA's new No.1

CAGO (AFP) -RESULTS el Jordan has spawned idwide buying frenzy, cause he switched jersey ers from 23 to 45 in his Charlotte back with the National Detroit aball Association's Chi-Dallas LA Lakers

ply cannot match glob-are for jerseys bearing n's new number. Even wearing his retired er 23 feel a need to the latest model, which the 45 that Jordan's brother Larry wore in

same in house a second we have had for any replaced him and toxas many said Don Martin, Hartson bigo handedenger at Champion Pro-Apple Control Pin State Magnitude

cial NBA uniform supplier and only licensed manufacturer for public sales.

Champion added a third shift overnight at its Winston-Salem, North Carolina, plant to begin around-the-clock printing of nylon replica Bulls jerseys with number 45.

The entire production line, which normally makes souvenirs for every NBA club, is now turning out only Jordan products. But there is one limitation the NBA has told Cham-

pion it cannot make additional Jordan jesseys with the number 23. That ruling has increased the value and desire for Jordan 23 jerseys. Michael Jordan's, a Chica-

go restaurant owned by the

basketball star, is running low on the \$200 jerseys with Jordan's number 23 and sold out of the \$900 framed 23 jerseys bearing Jordan's

"People think they will be collectible as an investment,' said Lisa Woodruff, sales manager at the restaurant

ocated at gardens area.

DOHA (AP) — Sweeper Sebastian Pena scored three goals, two in the first half, to pace Argentina past a depleted Honduran side 4-2, sending the South Americans

the quarterfinals on

Reading,

Swindon

heading

ways

different

LONDON (AP) — As modest Reading aims to make it

to the top flight for the first time ever with two promo-

tions in a row, Swindon

appears to be headed the

Reading which moved up to Division One last season,

is in the race to make it to the

Premier League, either by topping the standings or

through the play-off proce-

Swindon, which had one

eason in the Premier League

last year, will be among the

group of clubs to be relegated

to Division Three unless it

produces some spectacular results in the last four games

With the Premier League

teams taking the weekend off, the Division One promo-

tion and relegation battles

of the season.

take centre stage.

FIFA World Youth Cham-Portugal, Australia and Cameroon also moved into

sending it to Sunday's roundof-eight games as the runnerup in the group behind Por-tugal, which beat the Netherlands 3-0 to finish with a

The victory gave Argentina

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Regional bridge championship opens today

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The 8th Bridge Federation of Afri-ca, Asia and the Middle East (BFAAME) championship opens in Amman today (Saturday) with over 200 bridge players repre-senting 15 countries taking Dart.

The championship, held under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, will be attended by top bridge officials and players from around the world and will serve as a qualifying tourna-ment for the World Bridge Championship scheduled to be held in Beijing in

The participants in the open teams include teams from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Reunion, Mauritius, Russia, Kenya and

Eight teams will contest the ladies' trophy: Egypt, South Africa, Reunion, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Kenya and Jordan.
The competition will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel and will end on May

The first two days are reserved for the open pairs competition. The qualification rounds for the open and ladies teams will take a week to complete with the final three days reserved for the semifinals and finals.

Attending will be the President of the World Bridge Federation Mr. Jose Damiani and Vice President Mr. Mazhar Jafri, in addition to the president of the BFAAME Mr. P.C. Goenka and Arab Bridge Federation Chairman Mr. Sadeq Radwan. The internationally popu-

lar card game, was first officially introduced in Jordan back in 1979 and has been steadily drawing a large number of players and fans in the Kingdom - a fact that led the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and the BFAAME Council



to accept Jordan's bid following WBF vice-president Mr. Mazhar Jafri's visit to Jordan in January 1994

and arrangements and signed an agreement with the Jordan Bridge Association to host the cham-

. . .

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World Youth Soccer Championship

Argentina, Portugal, Australia and Cameroon advance to quarterfinals

After Ariel Ibagaza gave Argentina the lead in the sixth minute, Pena added goals in the 39th and 43rd to increase the advantage to 3-9 nto the quarterfinals at the by halftime.

/acancies.

2-0-1 record in Group C,

Pena, who also played a key role in Argentina's de-

1.DJ and salesman with good musical background and -

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SENIOR INDUSTRIAL CHEMIST REQUIRED

fence by constantly deflecting final goal in the 71st and was

the swerving corners floated unanimously selected as the

by Walter Coyetee, added his game's most valuable player.

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rosed care any here here is it reached in its storing last year's World Agnelli pointed to the die ready to quil r's slow tournament nd referred to him as a WINCE APP GREEK RABBIT." Baggio re-HIXIN ALP COMPANY and with five goals in to the free state and the state of the state

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And the part fine michel Michel Platini was part fine michel Mi

in nelped Juve to two titles: A champions of the second of the polytailed playis where no Italian 5 been: A "Grant" of ith the first division lian Cop and UEFA the same year. returning from in-lat had limited his and effectiveness Cup, Baggio nas

t a notch short of In Juve's last 10

for the UEFA Cup final against Parma — with a 2-1 win at Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday. Baggio assisted on the first goal and netted the winner with a signature free

A week earlier, Baggio's penalty kick sealed a 2-1 win over Lazio of Rome that put Juve in the Italian Cup final. Its opponent? Parma, of

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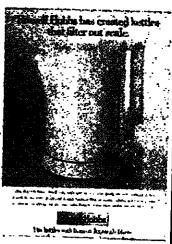
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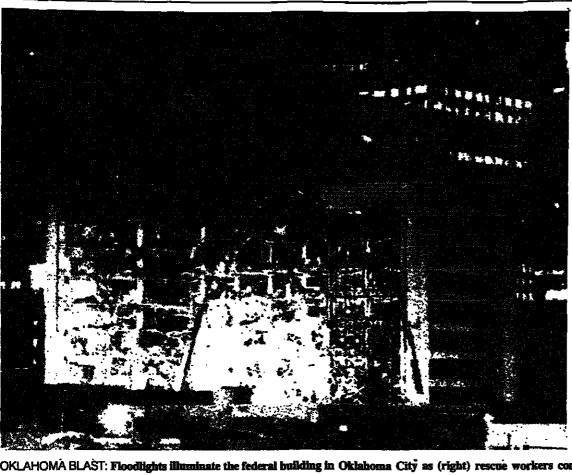
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Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Jean-Claude Van Damm STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		CABARET	For reservation, please cal 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays	

DGE





OKLAHOMA BLAST: Floodlights illuminate the federal building in Oklahoma City as (right) rescue workers continue searching for bodies in the aftermath of Wednesday's carbomb explosion (see page one (AFP photo)

Jordan, PNA to sign all |Gaza pilgrims travel on |Iran rejects permanent agreements in two weeks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE THE RESERVE THE SECOND PROPERTY OF THE PRO

AMMAN - Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) intend to conclude the signing of all agreements on cooperation in various sectors in two weeks, the senior Palestinian diplomat in Jordan said Friday.

Omar Al Khatib, charge d'affaires at the Palestinian embassy in Amman, also said the signing of a Jordan-PNA accord on cooperation in culture and information has been delayed until Wednesday because of technical

Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times the agreement on culture and information was supposed to have been signed on Saturday (today) but was deferred because of technicalities related to travel across the King Hussem Bridge.

: The draft agreement, Mr. Khatib said, involves exchange of visits by cultural teams from the two sides, Jordanian training for Palestinians and exchange of information and expertise.

"We hope to sign the agreement on Wednesday, Mr. Khatib said, adding that Jordanian Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh and PNA Minister of Culture and Information Yasser Abed Rabbo would sign the accord. According to Mr. Khatib,

Jordan and the PNA have put finishing touches to draft agreements on economic cooperation, trade, and transport, and these accords would also be signed in the

'next two weeks.' We expect that there will not be any outstanding agreements to be signed at the end of the next two weeks," he

These accords are called for in the broad protocol on cooperation that was signed by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who also heads the PNA, in January.

So far, the two sides have signed agreements in post and communications, education, health, and youth and sports. Outstanding accords cover economic cooperation, trade, transport, banking and monetary affairs, as well as civil affairs.

Mr. Khatib said Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad, the of transport. was also due here this week to finalise the agreement on transport. He will be followed by other concerned PNA ministers to finalise and

sign other accords. A seven-member PNA team headed by Mr. Abed Rabbo visited here on Wednesday and put final touches of most of the agreeafter the talks that finalising and signing accords were one thing but implementing them

was another. The reference was mainly to what are reported to be Israeli-imposed restraints on Jordanian-Palestinian coop-

"On the one hand are the accords signed and to be signed between Jordan and the PNA, while on the other are those signed by Israel and the PNA," noted an official.

"The problem, as we see it, is mainly because provisions in the Israeli-Palestinian and Jordanian-Palestinian agreement are overlapping," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "Given that Israel continues to retain control over the Palestinian territories, Israel can also indirectly restrict Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation at

this point in time."
A draft Jordan-PNA trade accord is seen as a classic example of the difficulties facing the two sides in implementing bilateral agree

While the draft accord sets out a broad scope of exchange of goods between Jordan and the Palestinian territories, an Israel-PNA accord on economic cooperation signed in April 1994 restricts the items that Jordan could export to the Palestinian ter-

Palestinian passports GAZA (Agencies) - Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday he was happy Gazan pilgrims were, travelling to Mecca for the first time on Palestinian pass-

But he criticised Israel's seizures of travel documents for other Palestinians.

Around 500 Palestinians from the self-ruled Gaza Strip left Gaza for Egypt on Friday on their way to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the Haj

pilgrimage.
"I am very happy that... I had the opportunity to say farewell to our pilgrims who are going to Saudi Arabia for the Haj and I am very happy that they are carrying Palesti-nian passports for the first time," Mr. Arafat told repor-

Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank-Jericho enclave began issuing passports to Palestinians in the two self-rule areas earlier this month under the terms of an Israel-PLO interim peace

In the past, most Palestinian pilgrims from the West Bank and Gaza travelled on passports or travel permits issued by Jordan or Egypt.

"I am very sorry that till now the Israeli government is still insisting to confiscate the 4,000 Palestinian passports which will prevent our pilgrimage from (most of) the West Bank... which reflects negatively on the whole peace process," Mr. Arafat

Earlier this month, Israel seized 4,080 PLO-issued passports bearing the names of Palestinians in parts of the West Bank still under Israeli occupation, saying the documents were issued in viola-

Israel said a Palestinian official was trying to smuggle the documents to Jordan for pilgrims to use to travel to

"We see this as a sharp violation of the (1993 Israeli-PLO) accord on self-rule in Gazá and Jericho, which allows the Palestinian Authority to issue passports only to residents of the self-rule areas," an Israeli army spokesman said.

Palestinian Religious Affairs Minister Hassan Tahbub has said that unless the green passports are re-turned by Saturday it will be too late to obtain visas.

Previously, Palestinians needed Israeli laissez-passer permit to travel abroad.

The Israeli authorities agreed not to stamp the Palestinian passports at the Rafah border. If they did most Arab countries would not allow the bearer to enter.

Palestinian Local Government Minister Saed Erakat said last week he was the first to use the self-rule regime's red diplomatic passport when he flew out of Israel's Ben Gurion airport for Cairo.

Mr. Arafat reportedly also carries the red document. Israel and the PLO signed their interim peace deal in September 1993 and have since been negotiating implementation of Palestinian selfrule in the rest of the West

PLO officials have also complained that Saudi officials had cut the Haj pilgrimquota for Palestinians from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza to 10,000 this year from 15,000.

A total of 3,500 Gazans are due to join the Haj, said Yousef Salami, a senior official at the Palestinian reli-

extension of nuclear pact

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's foreign minister, at centre stage of a U.N. conference on nuclear nonproliferation, denounced Washington Friday for trying to disrupt his country's nuclear programme while "turning a blind eye" to Israel's

Iran will not support indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as sought by the United States, until this "everwidening gap between promises and realities" of the treaty is closed, said Ali Akbar Velayati. The United States, con-

tending Iran plans to produce nuclear weapons, has tried to persuade Russia, China and other nations to cut off nuclear supplies to the Tehran government.

The Iranians, who are obligated as NPT signatories not to develop atomic arms, insist their plans are only for peaceful energy projects. They ac-cuse Washington of violating a treaty provision guaranteeing open access to nuclear

nergy technology.

Listing this and other treaty "failures," Mr. Velayati said the 25-year-old pact should be extended for less than an indefinite period at this point.

"The future of the treaty should be meticulously intertwined with the periodic examination of progress" in such areas, he said.

The United States appears, however, to be successfully building a coalition of nations to win a permanent treaty extension free of any major new demands on the nuclear powers. (see page 2)
"Certain nuclear weapon

states ... not only rendered, generously, materials and know-how to Israel," Mr. turned a blind eye to Israel's production and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction. tacitly exempting it... from

Iran's president said his country would back the renewal of the NPT but under certain conditions, Interfax news agency reported.

He did not say what the

Tehran's nuclear programme has been questioned in recent weeks following Russia's decision to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran, and China's expressed intention to build two more in the country....

ped up pressure on Moscow and Beijing to reject the multi-million dollar deals.

Singapore was among

"The treaty could and should be strengthened," she told the conference. "We are not convinced, however, that giving it a limited lifespan is the best way to do it."

Arms control experts say the conference is leaning to-

the NPT."

Tehran was prepared to

support the extension of NPT but "will set certain conditions when the time comes to sign the document," said President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani at the end of a two-day official visit to the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

conditions would be.

The United States has step-

Washington has lobbied hard for an indefinite extension of the NPT after presenting the U.S. position in a speech to the conference Wednesday, Vice President Al Gore targeted some Third World countries, listed as undecided, for some high-level persuasion at a private lunch.

them, and on Thursday Singapore diplomat Viji Menon announced her nation's support for indefinite extension.

wards indefinite extension.

Velayati said.". But also U.S.-N. Korea nuclear talks end without deal

BERLIN (Agencies) -North Korea ruled out resuming deadlocked talks with the United States on slavaging a landmark nuclear accord before its negotiators head home on Friday. In Washington, Secretary

of State Warren Christopher on Thursday urged North Korea to reopen high-level negotiations with the United States on replacing a nuclear power facility. But the North Korean delegation in Berlin rejected the idea of new

"It is not an insoluble problem," Mr. Christopher said in proposing the nuclear talks be shifted to Geneva from Berlin, and be held at a higher level. He would send Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci to the Swiss city if the offer was accepted.

But in Berlin, the chief North Korean negotiator in lower-level talks, Kim Jong U, said those talks had collapsed and he was returning to North Korea. "Our delegation is leaving Berlin today," he said.

The North Korean said there would be no "high-level talks" in Geneva, like the ones that started the easing of tensions last year between the two countries. "We think everything that could be discussed in high-level talks has already been discussed and settled," he said.

There was, however, no direct reaction to Mr. Christopher's offer from the Korean capital.

"The U.S. side is to blame for the rupture, for the breakdown and the rupture of the current talks because of the unreasonable and unrealistic attitudes," Mr. Kim Jung said.

The North Korean government will take "relevant section" according to the report he brings back home, the negotiator said without elaboration. It was not immediately clear whether he was referring to a possible resumption of North Korea's nuclear programme or to a further response to U.S. proposals.

Mr. Christopher urged the North Koreans not to reload a suspect nuclear reactor and to reopen negotiations in Geneva for replacing it.

The key hurdle is a U.S. demand North Korea accept South Korean reactors to replace the suspect fivemegawatt reactor frozen last vear.

Asked about proposal he did not like for a South Korean nuclear plant model to be used, Mr. Kim Jong said: The proposal put on our table does not have the safety features that North Korea is looking for."

We cannot reach any kind of agreement at this round of the talks, due to the unrealistic approach of the U.S. delegation.

The talks in Berlin were suspended Thursday, and North Korea had declared Friday the deadline for concluding an accord.

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Diana on Hong Kong fund-raiser swing

HONG KONG (AFP) Britain's Princess Diana, th estranged wife of Prince Charles, arrived in Hony Kong Friday for a private weekend visit in support o charity. Governor Chris Pat ten greeted the Princess o Wales at the British colony: airport before she headed of to her first function, a gale fund-raising dinner for a leprosy mission in China. Or Saturday she will attend a cancer-society luncheon, followed Sunday by a tour of a drug rehabilitation centre and, before departure for London, an exclusive dinner with Mr. Patten and about 20

Mother Teresa opens a floating clinic

DHAKA (AP) - Mother Teresa has launched a floating hospital on a barge which was discarded as a scrap in France. "Love each other and pray together for peace," said Mother Teresa as she declared open the 38.5 metre long and five metre wide hospital in River Sitalakhva. 16 kilometres (10 miles) off Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The ship was steered from a French town by social workers under the sponsorship of the Bangladesh Rotary Club. The barge survived the buffeting waves of the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal for three and a half months to reach Bangladesh. Named Friendship Hospital, it is fitted with equipment for treatment of common diseases, said a doctor.

Diana's brother and wife to separate — paper

LONDON (R) — Princess

Diana's brother Charles Spencer is to separate from nis wife Victoria who is in a clinic battling the eating dis-order bulimia, the tabloid Sun newspaper reported Friday. "Lord and Lady Spencer will live separately for the foresecable future. They have no current plans for divorce," a spokesman for the 30-year-old Earl told the paper. It said Earl Spencer would provide a house on his Althorp estate for his wife and they had agreed to give each other open access to their three young daughters and baby son. Earl Spencer said earlier this month that his 29-year-old wife, a former model, was receiving treatment at an exclusive clinic. 'My wife would be happy for me to tell you that she has had a problem with addictions and eating disorders for 10 years now, and this has been the first chance I have had to persuade her to have, proper treatment," he said. He said Lady Spencer had "serious psychological prob-lems." "My main concern is to keep her there becausethat is where she is going to get the best treatment that she can." Earl Spencer complained to Britain's media watchdog, the press complaints commission, saying intrusive tabloids had "ripped the heart out of the story" and set back his wife's

Coffee, tea lower some cancer risks — study

STOCKHOLM (R) — Cof fee drinkers who consume st or more cups daily may reduce their chances of cancer. of the colon, according to Swedish medical study Those who prefer tea also benefit, the study said Drinking more than two cups a day reduced the incidency of rectal cancer, "Coffee con sumption appears to be protective against colon cancel and tea against rectal tumors," the report entitled "coffee, tea, bobacco, and cancer of the large bowel stated. Research in Stock holm under the approval di holm under the approved Karolinska Hospital over the Stories S two-year period also said smoking did not affect dis incidence of cancers studies "In summary, our finding, indicate that cigarette smok ing, even long-term, does not have a substantial association with the risk of colorect cancer," it added. Swedes substantial number consummore than six cups daily, the

ments, but both sides said **Denktash faces challenge** to his 30-year leadership

NICOSIA (AFP) — Veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash faces a challenge from his former ally Dervish Eroglu in run-off elections on Saturday in the breakaway northern republic of divided

Mr. Denktash fell short of a clear majority in a sevenway contest in a first round of presidential elections last Saturday, winning 40.0 per cent of the vote against 24.2 per cent for Mr. Eroglu, a fellow right-winger. He now faces the first se-

rious challenge to his lead-ership of the community since violence broke out between Turks and the majority Greek-Cypriots in 1963, three years after the island gained independence from Britain. The two main left-wing

leaders who contested the first round, Ozker Ozgur who scored 19 per cent and Mustafa Akinci 14 per cent, have refused to back either Mr. Denktash or Mr. Eroglu and left their supporters free to vote as they want.

A fringe candidate, Alpay Dulduran, has called for a

If the left-wing vote stays away, cutting the turnout from the 113,000-electorate to below the 85 per cent of the first round, Mr. Denktash would benefit because of his 15,000vote lead over Mr. Eroglu,

political analysts said. Mr. Denktash, a 71-yearold British-educated lawyer running for his third five-year term in office, said the result showed the Turkish-Cypriots wanted to keep their long-

time leader. "The Turkish-Cypriot people do not want to replace their advocate with another. The people want this advocate to pursue his mission," he said. "Myself, I am ready for this mission and know the difficulties very well."

In 1980, Mr. Denktash won 70 per cent of the vote and 66.7 in 1990, both from

the first round. Mr. Eroglu, prime minister from 1985-1993 and leader of the National Unity Party which Mr. Denktash heiped found before the two men fell out over the intercommunal talks, said the elections heralded a new era.

"The people are saying

'no' to an administration built around a single man," said the 57-year-old trained urologist. "The winds of change are blowing and taboos are being broken."

Across the U.N.-patrolled green line which has divided

Cyprus since a 1974 invasion by Turkish mainland troops after a toup in Nicosia, the government made up of Greek-Cypriots said it would recognise the winner.

We hope the best candidate will be elected," said government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides. "Whoever will be elected will be the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community and our future interiocutor."

Mr. Denktash has led talks with the Greek-Cypriots since 1968. But the international community does not recognise his Turkish republic of northern Cyprus, set up in 1983 with only Ankara's

Greek-Cypriot officials noted that Ankara, which has 30,000 troops in the north, has not publicly backed the Mr. Denktash campaign this However, Greek-Cypriot

newspapers have predicted the result will make no change to the stalled U.N. efforts to set up a federation. They have charged that both Mr. Denktash and Mr. Eroglu are hardliners opposed to a solution to the

island's 21-year division.

Algerian politician wounded

ALGIERS (AFP) — A member of Algeria's transitional legislative assembly was seriously injured Friday in an attack in Algiers by unidentified gunmen, security forces

Areski Oukid, 71, was rushed to hospital after the attack in a commercial area of the city.

He is a member of the National Transition Council (NTC), a hand-picked assembly set up after the secular. military-backed government cancelled elections three years ago which Islamic fundamentalists were poised to

Security forces said it was a "terrorist attack," the term normally used to designate the work of armed Islamic groups, although they did not

give further details. Three NTC members have been killed since it was set up last year. Extremist groups had said they were "usurpers" and were thus prime

targets for attack.

The 175-strong NTC is boycotted by most opposition The shooting came as the Arab-language daily Al Hayat reported Friday that an army general and two col-

armed groups in separate attacks. The paper, quoting sources close to the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said the officers were killed

onels had been killed by

Wednesday. If confirmed, it would be the first time an army general has been killed by extremists in what the paper said appeared to be a coordinated spate of attacks on military

tion of the peace accord. gious affairs ministry. Mistrial request denied in New York court trial

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Defendants in a New York trial have been tainted by publicity about the Oklahoma City bombing, their lawyers said Thursday in unsuccessfully arguing for a mis-

One defence lawyer, John Jacobs, said his own fiveyear-old son, touched by news of children killed in Wednesday's blast, asked whether his client was re-

sponsible. Mr. Jacobs said he told his child that Mohammad Saieh was innocent. But he was concerned about the effect that photographs of dead Oklahoma children could

have on the New York jury. "I'm concerned about it. too, but if there is any time to measure it, it isn't now," said U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey.

Mr. Mukasey said he might question jurors before they begin deliberations to make sure they did not see or hear anything that would prevent them from judging fairly. On Wednesday, he told jurors to avoid watching or reading reports of the Oklahoma blast.

Mistrial requests were made by Lynne Stewart, the lawyer for Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, and Roger Stavis, lawyer for Al Sayyid Nosair, who is accused of launching a holy war in the United States in 1990 by assassinating Rabbi Meir Mr. Stavis made his re-

mony Thursday from a man who was working at the World Trade Centre when a bomb went off on Feb. 26, 1993, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000. The man, Frederick Ferby, rescued people trapped in an elevator by knocking its

doors open, carried two fel-

low employees at the same time in darkness out of the blast area and returned to discover three bodies. The prosecutor, Andrew McCarthy, cut him off before he could tell about finding the pregnant body of one victim. Still, Mr. Stavis said

the testimony was unfairly prejudicial. Mr. Stavis said he thought Mr. Ferby's eyes filled with teams when he testified about finding the bodies of two

co-workers. "I believe it had a devastating impact on the jury, parti-cularly in light of events of the last 24 hours in Oklahma and your honour's instruction concerning the bombing in Oklahoma," Mr. Stavis said.

'Your motion is denied,' Mr. Mukasey said in the conservation that was conducted away from the jury. "I watched the jury during his testimony. They were solemn and intent but otherwise behaved entirely responsibly. His voice, for the record, did not break at all during his testi-

Mr. Mukasey said he was doing his best to keep out "outrageously inflammatory quest after emotional testitestimony.